

Urgent missile talks today on Russian offer

● The Geneva arms negotiators start emergency talks today on Mr Gorbachev's offer to scrap medium-range nuclear weapons in Europe.
● Washington reacted favourably to the proposal, and the US hopes to table a formal treaty soon in Geneva.
● British officials expressed some concern that Mr Gorbachov talked only about the removal of the Russian SS20s.
● A Nato spokesman gave a cautious welcome, and the German Foreign Minister said Mr Gorbachov had removed the main obstacle (Page 6).

By Alan McGregor, Geneva, Michael Binyon, Washington, and Nicholas Beeson, London

US and Soviet arms negotiators will resume talks in Geneva today, optimistic that the climate is now right for an historic agreement to remove the superpowers' medium-range nuclear missiles from Europe.

The negotiators are holding a special plenary session today at the Soviet Diplomatic Mission to examine Mr Gorbachov's surprise initiative, which has been welcomed by the Reagan Administration, even among hardliners such as Mr Richard Perle, the US Assistant Secretary of Defence.

The Soviet leader's proposal announced on Saturday has given a fresh impetus to the current round of negotiations at a time when President Reagan is badly in need of a foreign policy success and the Kremlin is eager for an arms control breakthrough before the US presidential elections in 1988.

Negotiations had been ham-



Mr Perle: Soviet proposal

Crucial Thatcher visit 6

Leading article 13

INSIDE Checkland to end BBC 'secrecy'

Mr Michael Checkland, the new BBC Director-General, has been given a mandate by the board of governors to introduce more openness to the corporation.

After a weekend summit of governors and senior BBC management, Mr Checkland promised that the corporation would dramatically reduce its secretiveness and bureaucracy to improve accountability and communications.

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TIMES BUSINESS Saunders' role

Mr Ernest Saunders, the former chairman and chief executive of Guinness, has been interviewed by Department of Trade and Industry inspectors on his role in the Distillers takeover.

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TIMES SPORT Cup replay

Arsenal recovered to a 2-2 aggregate against Tottenham Hotspur in the Littlewoods Cup semi-final second leg and they now replay at White Hart Lane on Wednesday.

Page 32

White wins

Jimmy White took just 95 minutes to win the Duxit British Open snooker title, by 13 frames to nine.

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Portfolio

● The £4,000 prize in Saturday's Times Portfolio Gold daily competition was won for the second time in a fortnight by Mr Gerald Ward, of Irthlingborough, Northamptonshire.

● The £16,000 prize in the weekly competition - double the usual amount as there was no winner the previous weekend - was shared by three readers. Details, page 3.

● Portfolio list, page 18.

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The US Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, returning a salute from a young Chinese girl, who also handed him a bouquet, at the start of his official visit to China (Report, page 9).

Off-duty warder murdered

By David Sapsed

An off-duty prison officer was stabbed to death and two other officers and a policeman were knifed in a clash with youths outside a south London public house early yesterday.

Mr Ian Pooley, aged 23, a prison officer at Brixton prison, who had earlier taken part in a charity boxing match at the public house, died almost immediately after being stabbed through the heart.

A colleague, Mr Frank McKewen, aged 28, was last night in serious condition at Mayday Hospital, Thornton Heath, with a stomach wound. A third colleague, Mr Nigel Enoch, aged 26, received minor stomach wounds.

Police Constable Nigel Hardie, aged 32, based at Norbury Police Station, was on routine patrol when he gave chase to one youth. He received a minor stab wound to the neck.

Det Supt Bob Chapman, leading the murder investigation, said that the prison officers had been at a boxing match between warders and the Army at the Prince of Wales public house in Parkmore Road, Thornton Heath.

The warders went outside when a window at the public house was smashed just before 11pm by a gang of five young men. It was just a case of mindless vandalism that developed into a stabbing, Mr Chapman said.

One of the gang was chased by warders. He got away after slashing at them with a knife but was then tackled by PC Hardie.

Last night, a man was being questioned by police.

Kinnock to direct party choice for by-election fights

By Richard Evans, Political Correspondent

Mr Neil Kinnock plans to intervene directly with local Labour parties in the selection of by-election candidates to prevent a repeat of the Green-White disaster.

He will use his "influence" at the earliest stages of the selection procedure to try to ensure local parties choose more acceptable candidates who, when subjected to the inevitable spotlight of the national media, do not provide the press with ample opportunity for a smear campaign.

His move is the first step in a longer-term campaign aimed at changing the party constitution so that candidates are chosen by "one member, one vote" rather than just by local party activists.

Labour strategists now accept that the selection of Mrs Deirdre Wood, widely portrayed as a hard left winger, not only cost Labour thousands of votes in Greenwich but also provided the SDP/Liberal Alliance with the initial momentum to overtake the Conservative candidate and get its bandwagon rolling.

Mr Bryan Gould, Labour's influential campaign co-ordinator, said yesterday while Labour had prided itself on the local democracy of constituency parties "that is not to say we would not welcome very close consultation between the national and local parties where they are selecting candidates, particularly for by-elections."

"We would certainly expect that to happen to a greater degree in the future," he added.

It is an open secret that Mr

Special team to improve service for the limbless

By Richard Evans, Political Correspondent

A radical shake-up in the £80 million National Health Service system for supplying artificial limbs and wheelchairs to the disabled is to be announced within weeks.

The reform, agreed by Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, and Mr John Major, Minister for Social Security, will transfer control of the limbless service from Civil Servants to a specialist management board.

The changes follow a government-appointed inquiry chaired by Professor Ian McColl, professor of surgery at Guy's Hospital, central London, which last year produced a report pointing to "widespread deficiencies" in the present system.

Large numbers of people had to endure unnecessary pain and discomfort, the McColl report said. Only a "total break" with the current organization could produce the required state of caring efficiency.

Following a series of recent private meetings with members of the McColl review team, Mr Major is understood to have decided that the report's central recommendations should be implemented in full.

The management board, which is expected to be formed by the end of the year, will appoint its own senior staff and will report direct to ministers.

It is expected that one of its top priorities will be to seek wider competition for the provision of artificial limbs. There are only a handful of British suppliers, with one firm having around 80 per

cent of the market for artificial legs.

The McColl report said that half the limbs were delivered late and the DHSS had proved incapable of controlling "the costs, prices or profits of the companies."

Over the past year the Government has taken steps to improve the existing service including computerization of records.

Mr Major has made it clear that the Government is determined to change the nature of contracts with limb suppliers. A budget for helping to transport people to limbless centres is under consideration and talks and being held about the training of prosthetists, who fit limbs. Tests are being carried out on improved limbs which could be introduced.

There are about 60,000 amputees in Britain.

Mr Lewis Carver-Jones, Labour MP for Eccles and honorary parliamentary adviser to the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association (Blesma), said last night: "I am absolutely delighted with this decision. For once the interests of the patients have come first. Blesma has, for years and years, been complaining about the existing system."

He hoped the new board would contain people with the necessary management skills "together with the type of person who has lost a limb or is paralysed and knows what it is all about."

The changes are likely to be announced once ministers have chosen a chairman for the new board.

6 killed in France as ski lift collapses

By Our Foreign Staff

Six people were killed and more than 70 injured - 25 of them seriously - yesterday afternoon when a ski lift collapsed in the resort of Luz, St Sauveur in the French Pyrenees.

The accident happened when a pylon carrying a chair lift cable collapsed. All 50 chairs crashed to the ground.

Eyewitnesses said the return cable of the chair lift, which has a capacity of about 200 people, jumped off a pulley.

Skiers in the chairs were flung off, some landing in the snow and others on rocks.

The police version of the incident was that the top of a pylon holding up the cable collapsed so that the cable detached from its pulley and all 50 chairs crashed to the ground. The skiers on the lift fell from as high as 60 ft.

Ambulances and police and military helicopters were rushed to the resort. The most seriously injured were taken to hospitals in Tarbes and Lourdes. Others were treated at the scene of the accident.

The identities of the dead and injured have not been released.

The accident came on the last day of France's annual two-week winter school holiday, when thousands of people traditionally go on ski vacations.

It was the second such accident this winter in France. A cable car carrying skiers up a mountain at the Les Orres resort near Grenoble in the French Alps crashed 40 ft to the ground on December 27, injuring 36 people.

The cable car fell into a car park after a pylon broke. In six cable car accidents in France since 1961, 28 people have been killed and 92 others injured.

Named Nazis 'safe in UK'

By Alan Hamilton

Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, will report that there is little chance of prosecuting alleged Nazi war criminals said to be still living in Britain when he meets representatives of the Los Angeles-based Wiesenthal Centre this afternoon.

The Home Office has traced six from a list of 17 names supplied by the Wiesenthal researchers, but Mr Hurd will tell the delegation that their alleged crimes were not committed in Britain, and as Britain has no extradition treaties with the east European countries where the Nazi atrocities took place, the British Government is unlikely to take any action over them.

He will also put paid to any suggestion that any of those names might be deported to Israel to face a show trial of the kind presently being conducted there over the case of John Demjanjuk.

Mr Greville Janner, Labour MP for Leicester West, has threatened to name the men on the Wiesenthal list, from within the safety of parliamentary privilege, unless the Government takes action.

But the Board of Deputies of British Jews has taken a much more cautious approach. It has insisted on having a deputation at today's Home Office meeting, and wants to avoid a campaign of indiscriminate allegations.

Ex-Nazis in fear, page 12

French approve of Abdullah sentence

From Diana Gaddes, Paris

The surprise decision of a special French court at the weekend to condemn Georges Ibrahim Abdullah to life imprisonment for his involvement in two murders and one attempted murder has been met with almost universal approval here, despite the acknowledged danger of renewed terrorist attacks.

Maitre Jacques Vergès, the defence lawyer, said that the court's decision would "be certain to be seen by many Arab militants as a declaration of war," but added that his client would not appeal against either the sentence or the conviction, having from the outset wanted a clear-cut outcome to the trial.

Maitre Georges Kieglmán, the lawyer representing the US Government in its role as civil party to the action, welcomed what he saw as a "very courageous decision which

has proved that France is a truly democratic country". Security along France's frontiers and its airports and railway stations has been reinforced in the wake of the court's verdict, and the 1,000 extra police drafted into Paris a fortnight ago in anticipation of trouble during the Abdullah trial are to be kept on duty.

M Charles Pasqua, the Interior Minister, has cancelled a planned three-day visit to Gabon, due to have begun yesterday.

As the Abdullah trial progressed in his absence - he had refused to attend the hearings after the first day - suspicions had grown that the French Government had concocted some kind of deal with Abdullah's supporters involving an acquittal or lenient sentence in exchange for a promise that there would be no bomb attacks in France.

The chairmanship of Covent Garden is a non-executive, unpaid position, so the task of steering the company into the 1990s will fall largely to Mr Isaac.

Under his direction, the supermarket chain recently concluded a major sponsorship deal with the National Youth Theatre.

The chairmanship of Covent Garden is a non-executive, unpaid position, so the task of steering the company into the 1990s will fall largely to Mr Isaac.

Fulham-QPR merger scheme abandoned

The merger of Fulham and Queens Park Rangers football clubs was called off last night.

Mr David Bulstrode, the chairman of Fulham and Marler Estates, who own the third division team's ground, has abandoned his plan to combine the two clubs.

He had proposed last week that the two clubs would merge and play at Queen's Park Rangers ground at Loftus Road, Shepherd's Bush, with Fulham's ground, Craven Cottage, being made available for property development.

Mr Bulstrode's decision fol-

lowed the vehement protests by supporters at both grounds on Saturday and a meeting of the Football League management committee yesterday.

Mr Bulstrode issued a statement in which he said that "Marler has agreed to enter into negotiations with interested parties for the sale of the name and players' contracts of Fulham Football Club." Marler may also allow Fulham to play at Craven Cottage for a limited period.

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NEWS SUMMARY

Horses stranded in island tower

Emergency services in Jersey will launch a fresh attempt today to rescue two horses stranded at a disused military tower a mile off the island's east coast.

The horses were being exercised on the beach on Saturday afternoon when their riders, Mrs Rowena Barthorp, of St Martin, Jersey, and Mrs Diana Cunliffe, who lives in Brittany, became lost in fog.

The women managed to reach the eighteenth-century Seymour Tower, which stands on the only rock in that bay visible at high tide.

Ban on quarry

The quarrying of 5 million tonnes of limestone near Castleton, Derbyshire, has been banned by Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment.

The Peak National Park described the decision as a major victory. The Parks Control Committee said the quarry at Eldon Hill was an eyesore, especially when seen from Rushup Edge. The minister's decision comes after an appeal by T W Ward (Roadstone) Ltd, which wanted to work the quarry into the next century.

Helicopter inquiry

An RAF investigation team was due to arrive in the Falklands last night to begin an inquiry into the Chinook helicopter crash on Friday in which seven servicemen died.

The Ministry of Defence said no decision would be taken on whether to ground the RAF's 35 remaining Chinooks until the team reports back. The wreckage may be brought to England for examination.

Those killed in the crash were: Pte L Stephen Newman, aged 28, from Southport, Cheshire; Pte L Anthony Atwell, 26, from Loughborough, Leicestershire; Pte L John Marshall, 26, from Alton, Hampshire; Pte L David Cherry, 26, from Loughborough, Leicestershire; Pte L John Marshall, 26, from Alton, Hampshire; Pte L David Cherry, 26, from Loughborough, Leicestershire; Pte L John Marshall, 26, from Alton, Hampshire; Pte L David Cherry, 26, from Loughborough, Leicestershire.

Cryptic winner

Mr William Pilkington, an accountant from Middlesbrough, Cleveland, won the Northern Final of The Times Collins Dictionary Crossword Championship in Leeds yesterday. He solved the four puzzles in an average of just under 11 minutes each.

Mr Philip Jordan, of Wythenshawe, Manchester, came second (12 min); Mr Humphrey Lewis, Nottingham, third (15½ min); and Mr P. Navin, Wallasey, fourth (16 min).

The first three qualify for the National Final in London on September 6.

Rail card attack

British Rail was accused yesterday of misleading the public after it withdrew half-price discounts on young persons' rail cards without notification (Rodney Cowton writes).

Discounts on day return tickets for people aged up to 24 using the rail card have been cut from 50 per cent to 33 per cent to bring them in line with other types of tickets bought with the card, British Rail said.

Mr James Towler, of the Central Transport Consultative Committee, said British Rail's action seemed "furtive".

Nigerian drug clue

British detectives are joining forces with the American Drug Enforcement Administration to bring an end to an alleged Nigerian connection smuggling heroin into Britain.

Two Nigerians involved in a plot to bring heroin worth £2 million into Britain were each jailed for 14 years at Mold Crown Court, Clwyd on Saturday. Another 12 gang members received sentences totalling 71 years.

Police believe the gang was led from west Africa, which they say is a main base for traffic in heroin.

Intelligence 'link' to Dublin bombings

By Richard Ford

The British Secret Service was accused yesterday of supplying explosives to a gang of "loyalists" which launched a bomb campaign in Dublin in which 26 people died.

Mr Fred Holroyd, a former captain in military intelligence, alleged that the three bomb attacks in 1974 were aimed at convincing the Irish Republic's government of the need for tough security measures to combat terrorism.

He said that the bombs were planted by a "loyalist" gang based in Portadown, Co Ar-

magh, which had links with an MI6 officer through a Royal Ulster Constabulary detective sergeant.

In a report in yesterday's *Sunday News* in Belfast, Mr Holroyd said: "The loyalists were not aware they were working for the secret service. They were supplied with unattributable guns and explosives."

"These were weapons which had been seized from the IRA which could not be traced back to British intelligence."

Mr Holroyd said the loyalist gang believed the RUC officer

was assisting them because he was an extreme Protestant but the bombings were an attempt to sway Irish government opinion.

The allegation by Mr Holroyd is the latest in a series he and a former Army information officer, Mr Colin Wallace, have made about an alleged "dirty war" waged by the security services in Northern Ireland during the mid-1970s.

The latest allegation, linking British security services with bombings in the republic, is part of a dossier which is

understood to have been sent to the Prime Minister in 1984. In May 1974 three car bombs exploded in Dublin and a fourth device was detonated in the border town of Monaghan. It was the worst single day of killing during the present troubles.

Last night Mr Dale Campbell-Savours, Labour MP for Wokingham, who wants a select committee set up to investigate the security services, said Mr Holroyd and Mr Wallace had a credibility problem.

Mr Ned Garvey, retired

Garda Commissioner, denied at the weekend ever meeting Mr Holroyd and dismissed his allegation that the SAS had operated with co-operation from the police force.

Last night the Army refused to comment.

Security forces in Northern Ireland suspect that Colonel Gadhafi, the Libyan leader, provided more than £1 million for the political and military operations of the Provisional IRA in the past 12 months in retaliation for British involvement in American air raids on Tripoli last year.

Speaker key to Fianna Fail fate

By a Staff Reporter

Mr Charles Haughey faces a tense nine days in which he must ensure support from independents to be elected Prime Minister of the Irish Republic.

Mr Haughey's position has been made more difficult by the decision of the Workers' Party to oppose his nomination when the Dail resumes next week.

If the Workers' Party is joined by Fine Gael, the Progressive Democrats and Labour, there will be 81 votes against and 81 Fianna Fail votes in favour of Mr Haughey's nomination as leader of a minority government.

Mr Haughey hopes to deprive Fine Gael of one vote by persuading the outgoing speaker to remain in office. If he fails, he will need to find another speaker, probably from the ranks of the four remaining independents, and then secure the support or abstention of Mr Tony Gregory, his left-wing deputy, and Mr Neil Blaney, the hard-line republican.

Mr Haughey's party has made it clear that he will not make any deals. In any case his room for manoeuvre is limited as the independent left-wing deputies would not be prepared to support any government likely to introduce tough economic measures, including public spending cuts in areas such as health and social welfare.

It is still thought likely that Mr Haughey, as leader of the biggest party in the Dail, will be elected, particularly as no one wants another general election.

In the event of a deadlock, Dr Garret FitzGerald would remain in office and the president would be required either to dissolve the Dail and call fresh elections, or adjourn it until Mr Haughey was either re-nominated or someone else from within Fianna Fail who could command majority support in the house was put forward.

Unionist anger over rebel

The Official Unionist Party's leadership is to bring disciplinary proceedings against a prominent member, Mr Robert McCartney, QC. Mr McCartney has been increasingly critical of the leadership and is heading a campaign to persuade the main British parties to put up candidates in Northern Ireland adopted by the Official Unionists.

His campaign meetings are attracting large numbers of people who hear him criticize his party for having "no policy".

His latest attack, in which he said that if the Official Unionist MPs returned to the House of Commons it "might not make any difference, because they had no agreed policy", is understood to have infuriated the leadership.

Yesterday he was unrepentant, accusing the executive of acting "emotionally". He added that he had not been informed of the decision to refer his case to the party's disciplinary committee.

He said the party leader, Mr James Molyneux, had disbanded the policy committee two months ago because for the "first time they were talking and preparing policy and no longer was policy being decided in the urinals at the House of Commons".

Mr McCartney is widely suspected of having leadership ambitions. He denied this yesterday.

Leading chess players lose in first round

By Harry Golombek

The young masters chess tournament, sponsored by the Arney Roadstone Corporation, began with some surprises at Uppingham Community college, Leicestershire, at the weekend.

With three grandmasters and 17 international masters taking part it was one of the strongest short congresses ever held in Britain.

In the first round Glenn Flear, fresh from making his second grandmaster norm in Bath, was beaten by Robert Williams, aged 19, and grandmaster James Plaskett lost to Christopher Dunworth.

When the final round began yesterday, international master Nigel Davies, of Wrexham, led with five points from five, followed by grandmaster Murray Chandler (London), international master Stuart Conquest (Hastings) and international master P E Littlewood (London) 4½.

International masters G Lawton (Leicester), D Norwood (Bolton), C Baker (Coventry), J Ady (St Albans) and J E Littlewood (Skelmersdale) were on four points.



Mr Bird, Labour's candidate, with Mrs Barbara Casile.

Euro vote may be election pointer

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Voters go to the polls this Thursday in a "forgotten" by-election which party strategists believe will give a far more accurate picture of the national mood than the Greenwich by-election, and may have a much greater influence on Mrs Margaret Thatcher's general election plans.

In the Midlands West European by-election caused by the death of Mr Terry Pitt, Labour, last autumn, even a 20 per cent turnout would mean a vote of more than 100,000.

None of the factors which distort domestic by-elections applies. There has been scant media attention, no opinion polls to encourage tactical voting, and no descending hordes of Alliance helpers. Nor is Labour's candidate hard left.

Moreover, the by-election is being fought in one of those critical areas where Tories and Labour must do well to hope to form a majority government after the general election.

The Euro constituency, a bleak urban sprawl stretching from Wolverhampton down through Dudley to Halesowen and Stourbridge, spans eight Black Country parliamentary constituencies, including the key marginal of Dudley West.

Five are Labour, and three Conservative, although the Tories won more votes overall.

The half-million voters returned a Conservative MEP in 1979 by 1,892 votes, and Mr Pitt in 1984 by 19,685.

A Liberal, Mr Chris Carter, is also standing, but so discreet is his campaign that Mr Norman Tebbit has mischievously offered £1 to whoever spots him first.

Mr Bird, aged 60, the paternalistic leader of Wolverhampton council, is basing his campaign — *Battling for the Black Country* — on the "decimation" wrought by the Thatcher years.

Mr Whitby, a clothing entrepreneur and local councillor, aged 39, campaigns with unashamed brashness and a fine salesman's patter. It was the strikes and economic policies of the last Labour government that had caused the Black Country's decline.

Mr Carter, a bearded, cagoule-clad Liberal who is the BBC's head of finance in the North-west, has to date been supported by just one MP and held a single Press conference. He is not local.

June 1984 election: T 19,685; L 74,091; Lib 2,401; Oth 19,685.

Leftist to take over Buckton's rail job

By David Sapsed

Leftist dominance of Aslef, the train drivers' union, which is on a collision course with British Rail over a 14 per cent pay claim, will be strengthened today with the announcement that a veteran activist is to replace Mr Ray Buckton as general secretary this autumn.

Mr Neil Milligan, the union's deputy general secretary, aged 60, who led disputes that brought chaos to Southern Region in the 1970s, has convincingly won the election to succeed Mr Buckton.

He will not take over until October, but senior British Rail officials agreed yesterday that Mr Milligan's election could foreshadow a renewed militancy on the railways.

"Ray Buckton was not exactly a 'wet', but Neil Milligan may well want to prove his own left-wing credentials by galvanizing action among the drivers, particularly in the Southern Region, which remains his power base", one said.

Mr Milligan, a miner's son from Lanarkshire who has been a full-time Aslef official for more than 20 years, is expected to urge closer co-operation with the National Union of Railwaymen. Its general secretary, Mr Jimmy Knapp, is a fellow Scot and left winger.

Last month the NUR and Aslef submitted a 14 per cent wage claim and demanded a shorter working week.

Kinnock's support slipping

By Richard Evans, Political Correspondent

One in five Labour supporters are now dissatisfied with Mr Neil Kinnock's leadership of the Labour Party, according to a MORI/Times Newspapers opinion poll.

The latest survey shows that only two out of three Labour voters are happy with the way the Labour leader is doing his job compared with 83 per cent of Conservatives who are satisfied with Mrs Margaret Thatcher as Prime Minister, and three out of four Alliance supporters who are pleased with Dr David Owen and Mr David Steel.

The poll, carried out from February 20-25 among 1,871 people at 151 sampling points in Britain, also discloses that the economic expectations of the electorate — an important pointer in election timing — has improved significantly in recent months.

Asked about the general economic condition of the country over the next year, 29 per cent said they expected it to improve, 32 per cent believed it would stay the same and 31 per cent expected it to get worse. Nine per cent did not know. Compared with August there has been a 20 point shift with voters now far more optimistic.

Meanwhile, the survey detected an increasing concern, especially among the young, about Aids. In the 18-24 age group only unemployment and nuclear disarmament were viewed as more important.

The survey confirms that class politics in Britain are alive and well. While the Conservatives have a 32 point lead among the middle class, Labour has a four point lead with skilled workers and a 21 point lead among unskilled workers.

South Africa clue to killer

By Nicholas Beeston

Detectives involved in the hunt for the killer of two prostitutes want to interview an Englishman living in South Africa, after a Mexican diplomat questioned about the murders has been released.

Scotland Yard said yesterday that the officer heading the murder investigation, Det Sgt Jim Hutchinson, will meet the South African consul in London this week to ask for his country's co-operation in tracking down and questioning the Englishman.

After the murders of Ma-

rina Monti, aged 27 and Rachel Applethwaite, aged 24, in January other prostitutes in London have come forward and told the police that the unidentified Briton was responsible for attacking three other prostitutes.

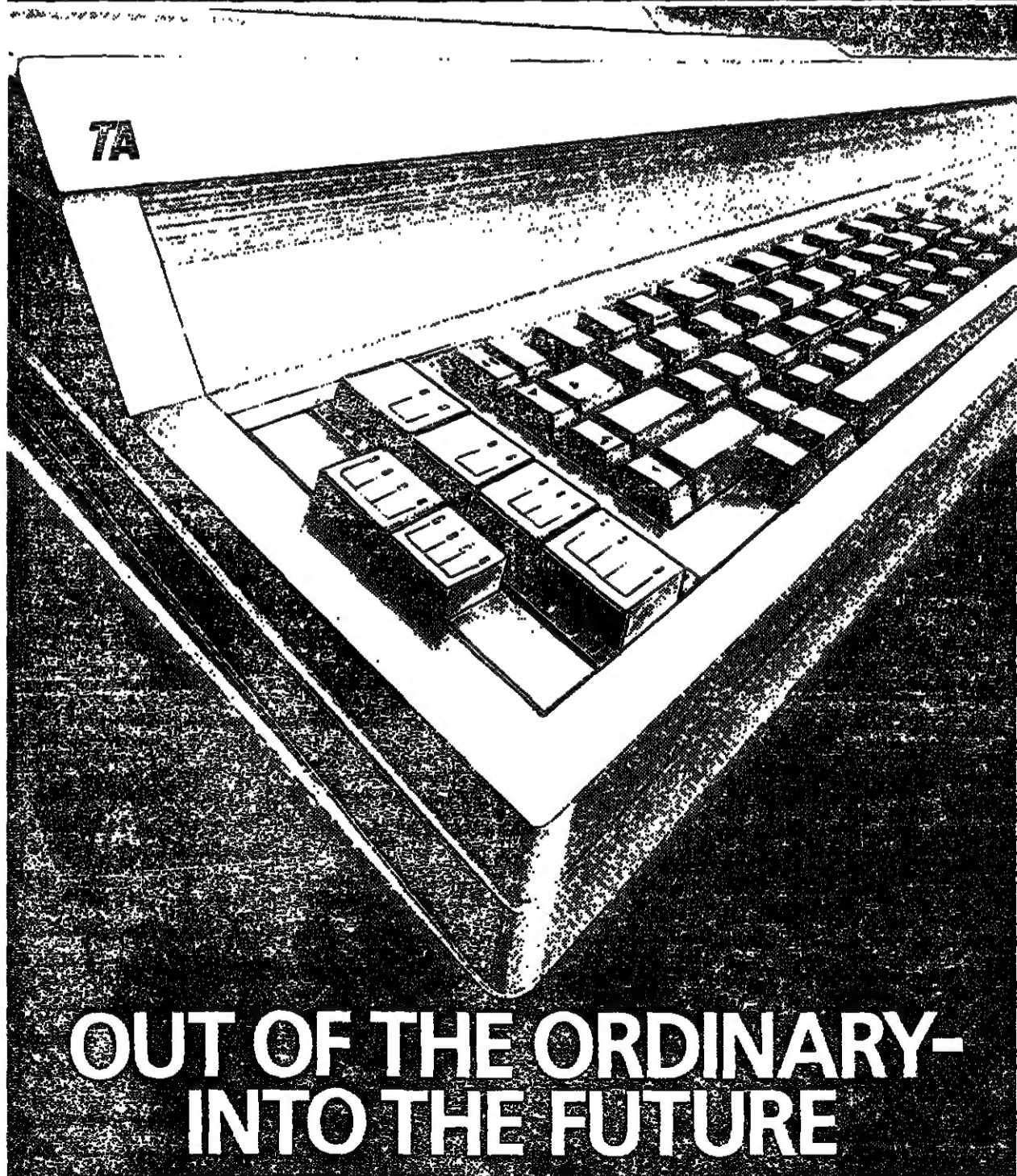
Señor Guillermo Suarez, the administrative affairs attaché at the Mexican embassy in London, went to Kensington police station voluntarily to give evidence as a witness after watching an appeal on the *Crimewatch* UK programme, but he was detained and

questioned by police for more than 30 hours.

He has been asked to remain in London.

Although Señor Suarez enjoys diplomatic immunity, the Mexican embassy in London has emphasized repeatedly that it will not obstruct the police investigation.

However the handling of the case by the police came under criticism yesterday from a Tory MP, Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, who said: "I shall be making a personal request to the Home Secretary for an urgent investigation into this case."



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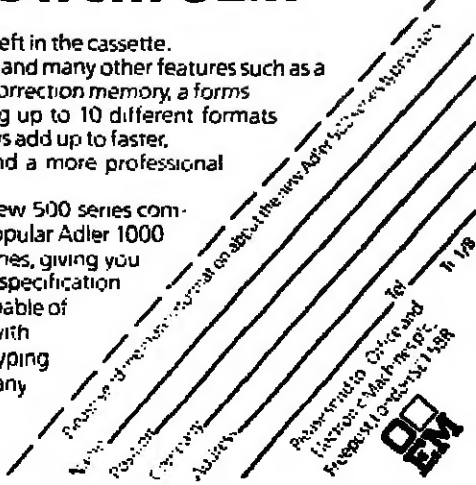
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Checkland offers an end to secrecy after BBC summit

By Jonathan Miller, Media Correspondent

Mr Michael Checkland, the new BBC director-general, has been given a mandate by the governors to introduce more openness.

After a weekend summit conference of governors and senior BBC management, Mr Checkland gave a promise that in future, the corporation would:

- Dramatically reduce its secretiveness and bureaucracy, to improve its accountability and communications with licence-payers.

- Devolve power from London to the five regions, giving them power to set priorities, manage budgets and create services.

- Channel more money to news and current affairs, after finding ways to cut spending in other areas.

- Increase efforts to sell programmes to cable and satellite media, but without taking a

management role in new networks.

- Present an action plan to the Home Office this week to increase the access of independent producers to air time.

Mr Checkland was with Mr Marmaduke Hussey, chairman of the governors, as he briefed journalists after the weekend summit at Eton House, Park Hotel in rural Warwickshire.

Mr Checkland's willingness to discuss the events of the weekend openly was in stark contrast to the management style of his predecessor. Mr Checkland and Mr Hussey gave a detailed summary of the discussions, and promised that future meetings of the governors and management would also be followed by substantive disclosures of what had transpired.

The weekend began with an overview of opportunities presented by new technologies.

delivered by Mr Jon Davey, chairman of the Cable Authority, Mr Andrew Quinn, co-ordinator of the British Satellite Broadcasting television project, and Mr Charles Levison, joint managing director of the Super Channel cable programme service.

Dr Janet Morgan, a former special adviser to the BBC, delivered a scathing assessment of the corporation's internal processes, criticizing the secretiveness of its management, the loose modelling of the BBC's structure on the Civil Service, and the closed and "stuffy" decision-making process.

Mr Tim Bell, an advertising adviser, criticized the corporation's external communications, and recommended that it devote more attention to its image, treating its audience as "shareholders" who deserved more direct information.

Both presentations were accepted by the joint board.

Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, who arrived at Eton House for lunch, said relations between the Government and BBC were "looking quite good. Each of us has fairly broad shoulders."

Mr Bill Cotton, managing director of BBC Television, called for a big increase in funding of news and documentaries. Mr Checkland said later that the recommendation was accepted, but will not be implemented unless savings can be identified.

The joint board accepted the request of Mr Brian Wenham, managing director of BBC Radio, for a rapid completion of the VHF network for Radio One, which shares VHF transmitters with Radio Two.

Mr Checkland dismissed suggestions that he would move immediately to appoint a deputy.



After the BBC summit, Mr Checkland was joined at Eton House by Mrs Sue Zetter (above), with whom he lives in Sussex. He plans to marry Mrs Zetter, a mother of three who is married to a British diplomat. "We hope

Sue's divorce will be settled within a year", he said. Mr Checkland was divorced from his wife of 23 years in 1983. She died shortly afterwards. He has three children — Philip, aged 25, Bruce, aged 21 and Helen, aged 18.

PE 'disappearing' from state schools

By John Clare, Education Correspondent

Sport and physical education are rapidly disappearing from state secondary schools, according to a report published today by the Secondary Heads Association.

The association carried out a survey among its members, who run about half the secondary schools in the state and independent sectors.

It says the crisis has been brought about by a combination of local authority spending cuts and two years of disruptive action by teachers.

Pupils in independent schools, which have been insulated from both, spend about twice as much time on PE as pupils in state schools, the report says.

It recommends that all pupils should have at least two hours of PE a week but finds that a quarter of 12-year-olds, a third of 14-year-olds and five sixths of 16-year-olds have less.

The survey shows that sports fixtures after school and at weekends have declined sharply in almost all education authorities, partly because teachers are refusing to supervise them but also because

cause more pupils are taking part-time jobs.

"Statements by politicians often refer to the prestige of national games but rarely to the educational importance of school sport", the association says.

A third of local authorities have done nothing to ensure that schools have even the minimum area of playing fields prescribed by the Department of Education and Science, a third do not provide adequately for modern dance and gymnastics, and only about a quarter provide adequately for swimming. Very few authorities provide squash courts.

The association notes that evidence from the Armed Forces suggests that the physical fitness of recruits has decreased considerably during the past few years.

It calls on the Government and education authorities to adopt a policy which emphasizes the importance and value of PE. It says this is essential to "enable young people to achieve their optimum physical potential".

Student may sue college at Cambridge

A Cambridge undergraduate is considering suing his college, after he was sent down when he failed to achieve honours grades in his second year examinations.

Mr Dominic Oakes, aged 21, is expected to serve a High Court writ this week, alleging that the master and tutors at Sidney Sussex College broke the laws of natural justice.

The student's father, Mr Julian Oakes, said that his son's tutor told him last summer he had only just passed grades in his mathematics. He was invited to attend a meeting of the master and tutors the next day, to discuss his future. Mr Andrew Grove, his solicitor, said he was not given a proper hearing.

The student, of Sherwood, Nottingham, is now studying at the University of Warwick. Sidney Sussex College has refused to discuss the case.

Burger chains cashing in on chip sales

Fast-food burger chains are making a "scandalous" profit on the sale of chips, according to the *Budget Good Food Guide 1987*, published today.

The book claims that some chains in London sell chips at 16p an ounce although potatoes cost about 10p a pound. The average price of a portion of chips in the capital worked out at 9.5p an ounce, while the cheapest resort was Southampton, with an average price of only 3.3p an ounce.

The smallest portion was three ounces served at McDonald's in the Strand, London.

By contrast, the generous Excel Fisheries in Rowland Road, Southampton, served a full 15 ounces per portion. *Budget Good Food Guide 1987*, edited by Drew Smith, David Mabey and Jeremy Round (Consumers' Association and Hodder & Stoughton, £5.95).

Nine in 10 husbands view birth

Nine out of 10 husbands witness the birth of their first child, according to a survey published today.

The survey discloses the growing part played by fathers in helping with the family's first baby — except when the infant wakes at night.

The Parentcare survey, *All About Dads*, questioned 2,600 couples after the birth of their first child.

It showed that more than half the husbands attended some ante-natal classes with their wives and 91.7 per cent are present at the birth.

Almost two-thirds of new fathers take time off from work after the birth, but 68 per cent take this as part of their annual holiday, rather than as paternity leave.

Choosing names is said to be a joint decision for 90 per cent of parents.

At home, about half of husbands help with feeding, bathing and changing the baby. During the night, however, equality ends. Only 39 per cent of men said they took turns tending the baby.

But 85 per cent of fathers regularly or occasionally babysit to allow their wives a break.

The survey also showed men helping more around the house. Two thirds help with the washing up, and 63 per cent with household cleaning.

Laundry and ironing, however, remain mother's job in more than two-thirds of houses.

The Pearl Assurance-sponsored survey confirmed that women play a dominant role in money management. More than 90 per cent of mothers collect and control any child benefit; 57 per cent of them are responsible for paying family bills and 96 per cent know what their husbands earn.

Death charge

Adrienne Mary Robinson, aged 36, of Lovesome Hill, Great Smeaton, North Yorkshire, was granted bail when she appeared before Teesside magistrates on Saturday, charged with impeding police investigating the murder of Police Sergeant John Speed, in Leeds in 1984.

Five-day weather by phone

By Edward Townsend

The Meteorological Office today launches Weathercall, Britain's first publicly available five-day weather forecast, aimed particularly at industry.

Weather forecasters claim that by using specialist advice the annual savings nationally for companies could be £500 million.

All telephone subscribers can now receive daily updated forecasts for three to five days ahead at a cost of 38p a call at peak periods, and 25p during evenings and weekends.

The Meteorological Office

said: "The move symbolizes the greatest advances in weather forecasting during the past 10 years. The potential value to commerce and industry has been revolutionary."

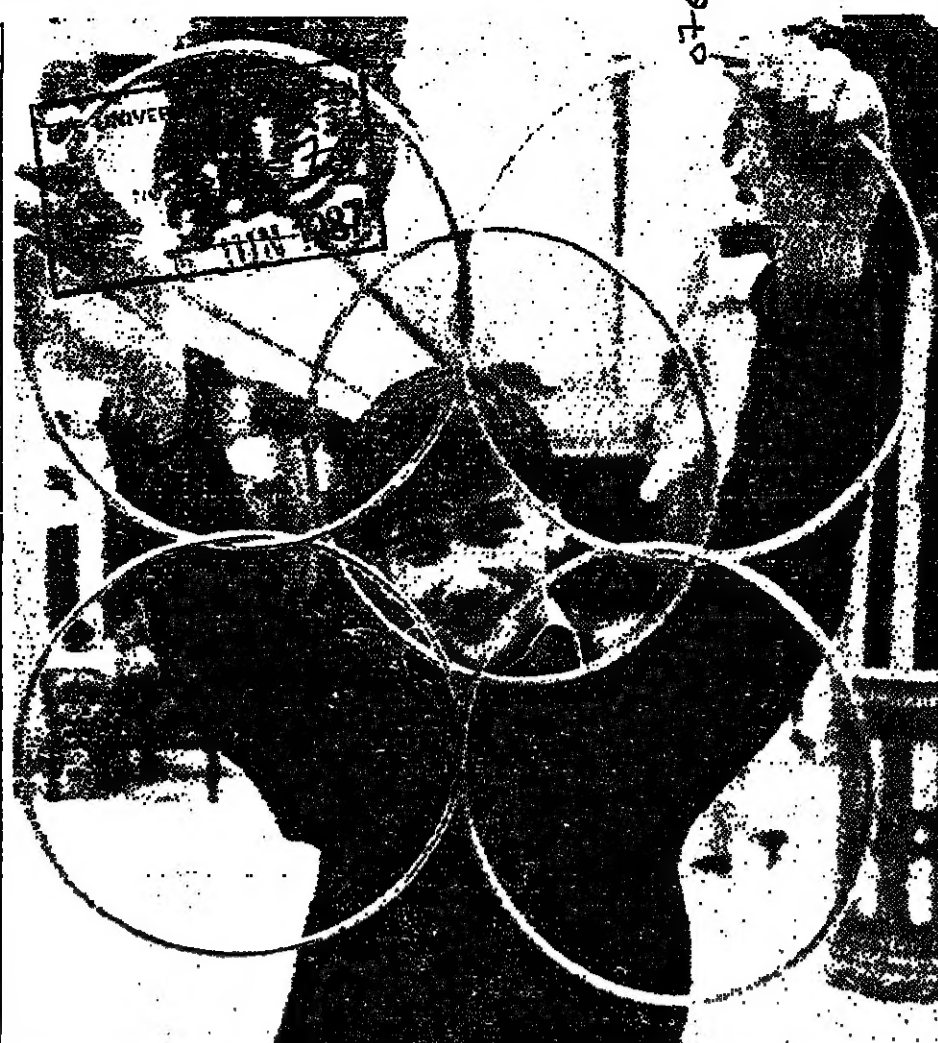
"Forecasts for three days ahead are now as accurate as one-day forecasts just 10 years ago, while five-day forecasts are now as good as three-day forecasts were 10 years ago."

Some sectors of industry, including umbrella retailers, heating equipment manufacturers, food retailers and the power industry already make

use of special forecasts. But the five-day forecast, offered in collaboration with Telephone Information Services, is seen as giving considerable benefit across the commercial world.

Mr David Houghton, marketing director of the Meteorological Office, said that extended period forecasts were prepared from information received every 12 hours from every country and ocean, 7,000 land stations, 500 ships and six weather satellites.

Weathercall is available on 0898 500430.



Roy Davenport, aged 15, voted winner of the 1987 British Magicians' Grand Prix yesterday by members of the Magic Circle. The title carries a £1,000 prize.

Magicians' convention

Rabbits and hats still tops

By Ian Smith

Producing bob-tailed, white rabbits from top hats with a flourish may be old fashioned, but it still remains the most popular trick in the increasingly sophisticated repertoire of magical mysteries.

That is what any of the 1,500 sleight-of-hand artists gathered at the thirty-first International Magicians' Convention at Blackpool yesterday, to trade secrets and swap spells, will tell you.

Not that the flop-eared favourite has prevented progress being made in what Magic Circle members proudly boast is the second oldest profession in the world.

A testimony to technological innovation was Hirozasa Fukai, aged 37, and his blossom wife, Kimika, from Osaka, who stunned television and club audiences with what some experts described as the most original act ever seen.

Unfortunately, the couple's inventory of technological wizardry does not include an

English dictionary and it was left to an interpreter to explain their act.

It was all done with parais. She gently explained. What was? "Everything", she said with a smile, and bowed politely before floating away.

There were as many amateurs at the convention as full-time professionals.

Father Mervyn Jennings, aged 47, a curate from Knowle, Bristol, was eager to pick the experts' brains.

For two years Fr Jennings has been teaching and performing magic from the pulpit. At midnight Mass on Christmas Eve he turned four red blocks into white striped rectangles and then demonstrated to a Christian night

meeting how different religions could be joined together, using seven pieces of string. He knotted the ropes together, pointed to the joints as the difficulties faced in Christian unity then, with a flourish, turned the rope into

one piece... with no knots left.

Before the doors opened for a public performance by the top stars last night, Magic Circle members watched private performances in order to choose the 1987 British Magical Grand Prix Champion.

The title, and a £1,000 prize, went to Roy Davenport, aged 15, from Acton, west London, who goes to school at Loreto boarding college in Edinburgh.

Using manipulation, said to be the most difficult of magical arts, he makes symbols, coins, billiard balls and rings disappear, float in the air and reappear in the strangest of places.

Two of the celebrities at last night's public performance were comedians Ken Dodd, who became a member of the Magic Circle after an impromptu demonstration of his talents, and Les Dawson, whose wife died of cancer last year, who accepted a £1,000 cheque for cancer research.

Ministers hail TV 'First Aids' show

By Thomson Prentice
Science Correspondent

Ministers and health experts believe the current series of television programmes on Aids will lead to "safer sex" among teenagers and young adults.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, and senior officials at the Department of Health have been encouraged by viewer responses to the first of an all-channel series, which began last Friday night and will continue this week.

They believe that growing awareness of the disease and discussion of condoms on programmes such as *First Aids* will lead many young people to limit their sexual partners and take more precautions.

Mr Anthony Newton, Minister for Health, said yesterday: "I very much welcome this co-ordinated effort by the broadcasting authorities to support the public education on Aids, and in particular to get the message across to young people."

First Aids, which included messages from pop stars and comedy sketches, was shown on ITV on Friday and on Channel 4 on Saturday.

Members of the studio audience were asked if they would use a condom in future and 46 per cent said yes, 37 per cent said no, while 17 per cent were not sure.

More than 500 calls were received by London Weekend Television after the first screening. Only 40 per cent supported the programme, but an LWT spokeswoman saw it as a favourable reaction.

"Usually most people call to criticize what they have seen. Among those who liked it were many parents who felt it had helped inform their children about the risks", she said.

"We are absolutely delighted with the response so far. If we have helped save even one life it has been worthwhile."

Compliments centred on the mixture of comedy and facts, explicit language, and on demonstrations of how to use a condom.

Two thousand viewers used a phone-in service to seek more information.

An opinion poll, published yesterday in *Sunday Today*, suggested that many young people have not changed their sexual behaviour.

Portfolio 'Gold' Winner doubles his money

A reader who won £4,000 on the *Times* Portfolio game two weeks ago has won another £4,000 in Saturday's game.

Mr Gerald Ward, an information systems specialist aged 42, of Irthlingborough, Northamptonshire, receives Saturday's daily prize of £4,000 having won the same amount on February 14 in a shareout of the weekly dividend.

He has been reading *The Times* for more than a quarter of a century and playing *Portfolio* since it started.

He said yesterday: "I was absolutely amazed to be lucky a second time. I don't very often win things, the only other win was a bathroom sink plug in a raffle."

The weekly prize, which had doubled to £16,000 after being unclaimed last week, is shared by three readers who each receive £5,333.

Mrs Judy Garstang, aged 38, a former librarian of Rampton, Cambridgeshire, has played *Portfolio* since it started after changing to *The Times* five years ago.

The second winner was Mr Maurice Brookhurst, aged 50, a superintendent with GEC Telecom, who comes from Newbold on Avon, Rugby, Warwickshire.

The final winner was Mrs Brigitte Lynch, aged 25, of Salford, Milton Keynes, who works for a stockbroking company and has played *Portfolio* since it started.

Readers who wish to play *Portfolio Gold* can obtain a card by sending a stamped, addressed envelope to:

Portfolio Gold
The Times
PO Box 40
Blackburn
BB1 6AJ



Mr Gerald Ward, a winner twice in two weeks

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Answer 'YES' or 'NO' to each question below. If you are 54 or under and can reasonably answer 'NO' to the 14 questions, you will normally be accepted with no further questions or medical examination.

1. Have you ever been treated for, or have you ever been advised to be treated for, any medical condition or surgery within the last five years? YES ☐ NO ☐

2. Have you ever been treated for, or have you ever been advised to be treated for, any medical condition or surgery within the last five years? YES ☐ NO ☐

3. Have you ever been treated for, or have you ever been advised to be treated for, any medical condition or surgery within the last five years? YES ☐ NO ☐

4. Have you ever been treated for, or have you ever been advised to be treated for, any medical condition or surgery within the last five years? YES ☐ NO ☐

5. Have you ever been treated for, or have you ever been advised to be treated for, any medical condition or surgery within the last five years? YES ☐ NO ☐

6. Have you ever been treated for, or have you ever been advised to be treated for, any medical condition or surgery within the last five years? YES ☐ NO ☐

7. Have you ever been treated for, or have you ever been advised to be treated for, any medical condition or surgery within the last five years? YES ☐ NO ☐

8. Have you ever been treated for, or have you ever been advised to be treated for, any medical condition or surgery within the last five years? YES ☐ NO ☐

9. Have you ever been treated for, or have you ever been advised to be treated for, any medical condition or surgery within the last five years? YES ☐ NO ☐

10. Have you ever been treated for, or have you ever been advised to be treated for, any medical condition or surgery within the last five years? YES ☐ NO ☐

11. Have you ever been treated for, or have you ever been advised to be treated for, any medical condition or surgery within the last five years? YES ☐ NO ☐

12. Have you ever been treated for, or have you ever been advised to be treated for, any medical condition or surgery within the last five years? YES ☐ NO ☐

13. Have you ever been treated for, or have you ever been advised to be treated for, any medical condition or surgery within the last five years? YES ☐ NO ☐

14. Have you ever been treated for, or have you ever been advised to be treated for, any medical condition or surgery within the last five years? YES ☐ NO ☐

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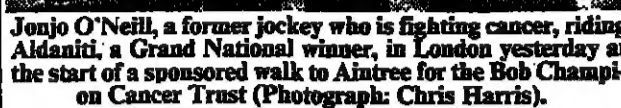
By Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

Hammersmith and Fulham's own expenditure is increasing from about £20 million to nearly £46 million, and it expects to lose £10 million in government grant for exceeding its permitted level of spending.

For inner London boroughs, the main uncertainty is the winding up of the Greater London Council.

The London boroughs have benefited from money received from the London Residuary Body as a result of

that there should not be another large rate increase because of the effect on jobs. The council meets later this week.



By Rodney Cowton
Transport Correspondent

The road lobby is also pressing for greater spending on maintaining local authority roads. In evidence to the Audit Commission the British Road Federation says this should be increased by about £380 million a year.

By Daniel Ward
Motor Industry
Correspondent

previous warning that children must be restrained. The new version also says that children should not be in the luggage space behind the rear seats of an estate car, or hatchback, unless there are proper seats.

Serious traffic delays are expected from next Sunday as resurfacing work begins on the Preston by-pass. It is expected to take four months.

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Barristers blacklist solicitors who fall behind on fees

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Bar is to blacklist solicitors who persistently fail to pay barristers' fees under a new withdrawal of credit scheme which comes into force today.

Some 250 solicitors are behind with payments of fees to barristers, who have to wait months or even years for payment of work they have done.

The scheme, drawn up after consultation with the Law Society, is being introduced after the failure of existing ways of tackling the problem of non-payment.

Barristers may not sue solicitors or the client for payment of their fee.

The problem has been dealt with through letters from the chairman of the Bar, after reporting of such firms to the Law Society for professional misconduct which could then result in disciplinary proceedings.

But the system has had only limited success. There have still been prolonged delays, with disciplinary procedures taking up to two years.

Mr Niall Morrison, deputy secretary of the Bar Council, said: "A solicitor who wants to play the system can delay

interminably payment of counsel's fees and there are some who do. Whether it is deliberate or simply inefficiency, one does not know."

Payment of fees has always been a problem. Solicitors to some extent are at the mercy of clients who, in turn, are slow in paying their bills.

But it is now thought a blacklist will be the most effective way of dealing with persistent non-payers.

Under the new scheme solicitors whose credit has been withdrawn will be put on a list sent to all barristers.

There are 200 solicitors who have had one letter from the Bar Chairman over delayed payment of fees. Another 46 have had two letters. After today a solicitor receiving a third letter will be blacklisted.

Mr Peter Scott, QC, the Bar Chairman, said: "A small number of solicitors have been abusing the trust which barristers have placed in them and the old system did nothing to remedy this effectively. My hope is that publication of the scheme will reduce the difficulties and that I will not have occasion to use it."

Although there has been a steady decline this century in those using the language, 70 per cent of the 700 people questioned for BBC Wales think the future of the language is "very important".

Most of those who did not speak it wished they could - with more than 90 per cent in favour of children being bilingual.

The survey showed 44 per cent thought demonstrations

chambers in England and Wales, to the Master of the Rolls and to the Law Society President.

Once on the list they will have to pay the barrister his agreed fee on delivery of his brief, or instructions, unless they obtain the express consent of the Bar Chairman not to do so. The scheme does not apply to legally-aided work.

Barristers who do not comply with the scheme and take work from black-listed solicitors without payment in advance will, themselves, be liable to disciplinary proceedings for a breach of the code of professional conduct.

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Kai Bin Shin, aged four, from Selly Oak, one of the first pupils at the Birmingham Chinese School, which opened on Saturday. Computers will be used to teach Chinese characters and culture to children of the 15,000-strong Midlands community on Saturday afternoons.

Warm welcome for Welsh lessons

There is strong support for the teaching of Welsh in schools, even among the majority in the principality who do not speak the language, but condemnation of the protest tactics of some of its more extreme advocates, according to figures published yesterday, St David's day.

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The survey showed 44 per cent thought demonstrations

and attacks on holiday homes owned by people from outside Wales had harmed the language's future, although 32 per cent did not.

The Government's last census, in 1981, showed only just over half a million (19 per cent) of the population of Wales spoke the language, compared with about 50 per cent in 1900.

The survey showed 44 per cent thought demonstrations

Jews plan new world away from crime

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs
Correspondent

A £10 million model community is being planned outside London by 50 young orthodox Jewish families anxious to escape harassment and crime.

The finances are being arranged with a developer who would create the scheme "from beginning to end", including a synagogue, community centre and private orthodox Jewish schools.

The aim is not to be a segregated community, but to buy existing houses as well as to build new ones.

Mainly business and professional people, the families come from Stamford Hill, Golders Green and Hendon.

A co-ordinator for the scheme said proposals had been made for the purchase of land, but he would not confirm that the site was in Hertfordshire.

The 50 families want in their "new world" to find an ideal setting for their beliefs and way of life. The "push" is most obvious in Stamford Hill.

"Women are frightened to go out at night", the co-ordinator, who wishes to remain anonymous, said. "They call a cab to go round the corner." Children had been sexually molested and rapes were not unknown.

Protest by Barlinnie staff may spread

Prison officers at Scotland's 19 prisons have decided overwhelmingly to support staff at Barlinnie jail in Glasgow, who are refusing new admissions of prisoners (Our Home Affairs Correspondent writes).

The Barlinnie action, taken because of overcrowding, could spread to other prisons this week, if officers feel that satisfactory moves are not made to resolve the dispute. Such a move could put enormous extra pressure on police cells housing the overflow.

It is now likely that the Scottish Office will apply for a High Court writ to declare illegal the action of the Barlinnie prison officers, who rejected a recommendation to return to work while negotiations took place.

Mr Ian Lang, Parliamentary Under Secretary at the Scottish Office, said: "We have had meetings with the Scottish Prison Officers' Association executive with a view to easing the situation at Barlinnie. The action of the prison officers there is illegal. We will now have to look at other methods towards resolving this dispute."

Yesterday, police in Glasgow said that John Scott, aged 23, a prisoner awaiting trial who was released by mistake from Barlinnie last Wednesday, was back in custody.

Rival inquiry into community care

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

An independent inquiry is to be launched into the problems of providing care in the community after concerns that the Government's review, set up last December, will turn into a cost-cutting exercise.

The King's Fund Institute, the policy arm of the King Edward's Hospital Fund, is setting up a study which will concentrate on how community services for the elderly, mentally ill and mentally handicapped can be improved.

The study aims to examine how local good practices can be spread to other areas with the help of better planning between local agencies.

"We are concerned that the Government's review might focus on value for money issues and miss out policy and organizational issues", Dr David Hunter, health policy analyst at the London-based institute, said yesterday.

Dr Hunter said that some people had expressed fears that the review, led by Sir Roy Griffiths, the Government's adviser on the health service, would try to find cheaper ways of providing community care.

Other organizations have said that the Government has used the review as a delaying tactic to avoid addressing policy issues until after the general election.

Sir Roy's remit is to look at how public funds support community care policy and

how the use of those funds can be improved to provide more effective community care.

The 12-month review was set up in the wake of a report by the Audit Commission, which accused the Government of wasting £6,000 million a year on inappropriate care.

Dr Hunter, who will be co-ordinating the King's Fund inquiry, argues that Sir Roy may not be able to address many of the commission's findings concerning bureaucratic confusion at the planning level.

Dr Hunter agreed with the commission that improvements in community care could be made within existing resources. However, he argued that that would not need a large central reorganization of the management of services for the mentally ill, the mentally handicapped and the elderly.

Some areas of the country had managed to achieve better services by delegating budgets for certain groups, such as the mentally handicapped, to local professionals who then brought in services from the private, voluntary and statutory sectors.

"So far this work has been done by pioneers. Our study will be looking at the experience gained in these areas and how it can be applied elsewhere", Dr Hunter said.

Sport and the MSC: 1

Adventurous way to escape the dole

Government schemes designed to reduce the unemployment queues are helping adventurous sportsmen transform a leisure time interest into a full-time job. In the first of two articles, Ronald Faux, Employment Affairs Correspondent, talks to one of them.

A small dot appears in the sky 8,000ft above Topcliffe airfield in West Yorkshire and plunges earthwards. Peter Bedigan is approaching terminal velocity on his Manpower Services Commission enterprise grant.

Secured to him on a double parachute harness, and only slightly less than paralysed by fright, is a passenger.

The 12-second flight without wings is what Mr Bedigan describes as "really exhilarating", better than working you might think, except that Mr Bedigan is working.

Mr Bedigan, a self-employed professional parachutist from Burnopfield, Co Durham, gets the £40-a-week MSC allowance to develop his business of leaping out of aircraft with people strapped to him. It is, he says, quite the best way of introducing newcomers to the sport and the surest way for him to avoid the ranks of the jobless.

He left the Army in 1978, worked for a time as a lorry driver and then invested all his savings in a tandem parachute course in Florida. He bought the equipment, returned to Britain, spent two months on unemployment benefit and qualified for the MSC allowance.

"The £40 a week is vital at this stage. Kitting out a business with colour-coordinated jump suits and leather helmets, and keeping all the kit up to scratch is very costly", he says.

So far he has made 92 jumps with passengers, who pay £60 for the experience. Some go on

to become fully fledged skydivers themselves, others simply delete an item from the list of things they want to do only once.

"Frankly I hated unemployment and in this part of the world it is a really serious problem. It does make some people feel useless and ashamed."

"I have married mates who can't get a job and who stay at home doing the housework while their wives go out and earn the wage. That's hard to accept by someone who has spent their working life in a shipyard or some other macho manual trade that has become unwanted", he says.

His sky-diving enterprise worked well during its first season. The urge to leap from an aircraft lurks in the most unlikely people and his passengers have included a woman in her sixties.

"What surprises me is that although the North-east is supposed to be an unemployment blackspot there is still plenty of money about, enough anyway not to rule out a relatively costly sport such as sky-diving. This is the leisure age so quite simply I thought to myself that I'll make a living out of leisure", he said.

The unemployed on social security represent a consumer market of £8,400 million, which the leisure industry is gearing itself towards, although Mr Bedigan admits that few, if any, of his passengers have been unemployed.

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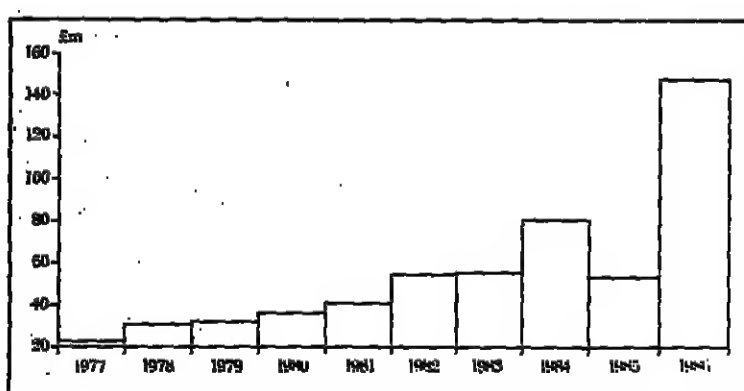
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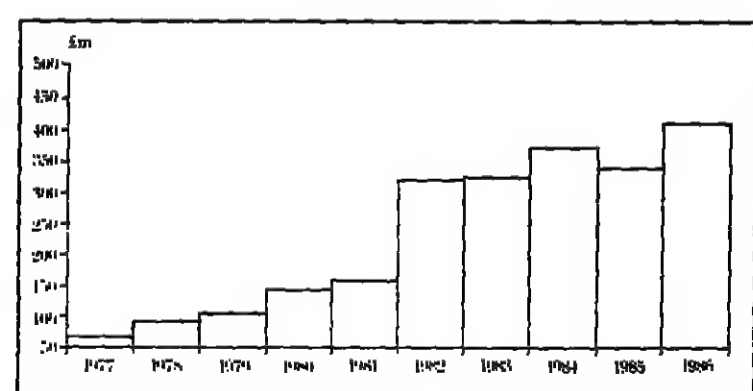
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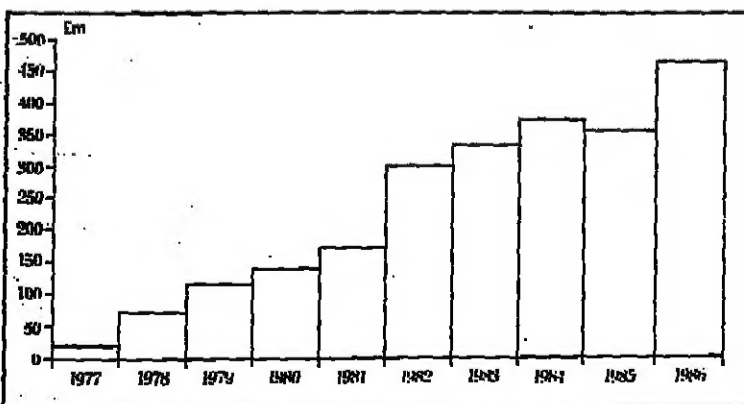
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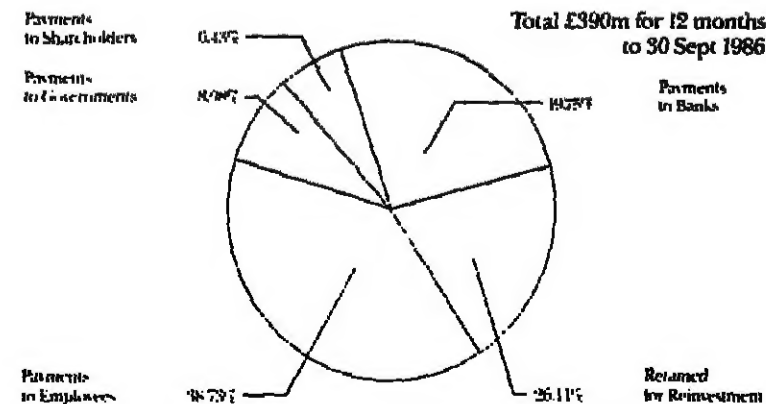
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WORLD SUMMARY

Soviet dissident appeals to West

Moscow — Mr Anatoly Koryagin, one of the most prominent dissidents released last month by the Kremlin and a nominee for the 1987 Nobel Peace Prize, has appealed to Western governments to help him and his family leave the Soviet Union (Christopher Walker writes).

"To my great regret, I have not seen any essential shift in the Soviet people's way of life, no matter what the Soviet propaganda organs say about 'democratization' in the country," said Mr Koryagin in what amounted to a public snub to the reforms of Mr Gorbachev, the Soviet leader.

Mr Koryagin, aged 48, was sent into detention in Khar'kov, in the Ukraine in 1981 for investigating cases of Soviet citizens committed to psychiatric hospitals for political reasons. "I see the same almighty powers of the KGB and the Interior Ministry over ordinary people, who in turn remain without a voice, without rights and indifferent to everything emanating from 'on high'... I shall never be able to tolerate the Soviet totalitarian regime," he said.

Aids curb on travel? 'Briton raped'

Geneva — Public health experts are meeting today at the headquarters of the World Health Organization to consider whether Aids carriers and victims should be restricted in international travel (Alan McGregor writes).

The 14 experts from the US, Western Europe, Africa and the Far East have also been asked if screening of "international travellers" for Aids can be considered an effective measure to limit the global spread of the disease.

WHO is opposed to such screening.

Vito Valentia (AP) — A British woman from Nottingham was allegedly raped, beaten and pushed into the sea by an Italian man. The woman, aged 29, was living and working in the southern Italian town selling encyclopaedias.

Police said that she met Signor Giorgio Orsico, aged 27, who offered to help her learn Italian, and she accepted a lift in his car. Signor Orsico allegedly stopped the car, forced the woman onto the beach, raped and kicked her and then pushed her into the water.

Anti-Franco reprieve

Madrid — Almost 10 years after the arrival of democracy three former Spanish Army officers who were court-martialled and dismissed for belonging to the anti-Franco Union of Military Democrats will be fully reinstated under the terms of the Socialist Government's rehabilitation law (Richard Wigg writes).

Six others, who with them made up the group of nine junior officers so dismissed, had chosen instead to go on the Army Reserve when applications for reinstatement closed on Saturday.

The three to be reinstated — headed by Major Luis Otero who led the clandestine movement during the last year of the Franco regime and who will be promoted to the rank of colonel — must now await decisions on their new postings, the Defence Ministry said.

US storm kills 7

New York (AP) — An intense storm over the central United States spawned tornadoes in the southern state of Mississippi that killed seven people, injured at least 145 others and left nearly 500 families homeless.

The deaths in the state of Mississippi on Saturday brought the death toll in a week of stormy weather, which started off with snow, to 12.

Sikh clash in Punjab

Delhi (AP) — Suspected Sikh militants shot dead four members of a break-away Sikh sect and wounded four others in the Jalandhar district of Punjab, the United News of India reported yesterday.

The agency said that three militants burst into a village house and opened fire. Nearly 140 people have been killed this year in attacks blamed on Sikh radicals.

Short still in the lead

Nigel Short of Britain leads the powerful IBM tournament in Reykjavik despite suffering his first loss in round eight (Raymond Keene writes). He was beaten by Johann Hjartarson, the Icelandic Grandmaster.

With three rounds to play and 6.5 points, Short remains one point ahead of Jan Timman, the Dutch Grandmaster.

Meanwhile in the Spanish town of Linares, Anatoly Karpov, the former world champion, easily held a draw with the black pieces against his compatriot Andrei Sokolov in their third game. Karpov played innovatively and aggressively and appears to have the match well under control against his less experienced opponent. The score is now Karpov 2, Sokolov 1, with 11 games to be played.

Pakistani scientist denies bomb claim

By Our Foreign Staff

The Indian Government is to make a statement in Parliament this week on a newspaper interview by Mr Abdel Qader Khan, the Pakistani nuclear scientist, in which he virtually admitted that Pakistan has the atom bomb.

Yesterday, Dr Khan denied having made such remarks.

Official quarters in Delhi say that what they have been maintaining for the last few months on Pakistan's manufacture of the bomb has been proved correct.

In an interview with Kuldip Nayyar, published in *The Observer* yesterday, Dr Khan said that what foreign newspapers — and even the CIA — had been saying about Pakistan's bomb was correct.

"It was difficult, particularly when America and other Western countries had stopped selling anything which could be used in manufacturing the bomb," Dr Khan was reported as saying. "But we purchased whatever we wanted to before the Western countries got wind of it."

Dr Khan was quoted as saying: "Pakistan will not choose if (the bomb), but it is driven to it. There will be no option left. Nobody can take us for granted. We are there to stay and let it be clear that we shall use the bomb if our existence is threatened."

Asked if Pakistan's nuclear programme was for peaceful purposes, Dr Khan was quoted as saying: "The word peaceful associated with a nuclear programme is humbug."

Dr Khan said that Pakistan's nuclear programme was a reaction to what India had done, according to the report.

In Islamabad, Dr Khan denied having given a formal press interview to Mr Nayyar, and said what whatever had been attributed to him was "mischievous, false and concocted" and aimed at maligning Pakistan.

In a strongly-worded statement to Pakistani news agencies, Dr Khan accused Mr Nayyar of a breach of trust and misuse of his hospitality.

Dr Khan said he did not know Mr Nayyar, who had come with a friend of Dr Khan's who visited him to deliver his wedding invitation.

Dr Khan said: "While having tea Mr Nayyar asked casually my views about Pakistan's nuclear programme."

I told him about Pakistan's policy of its readiness to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty simultaneously with India and to renounce the manufacture and the use of nuclear weapons."

Gorbachov offer for a missile-free Europe

Thatcher visit seen as crucial

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Mr Mikhail Gorbachov's dramatic weekend initiative aimed at securing a quick agreement on ridding Europe of both Soviet and US medium-range nuclear missiles was seen as further enhancing the importance of Mrs Thatcher's official visit here this month.

Because of the recent domestic upheavals in the US, the visit had already secured much greater than normal significance in its implications for the future of the East-West arms control process. Both Western and Soviet sources now believe its timing is crucial.

The fact that the initiative — unusually announced by Mr Gorbachov "on behalf of the Soviet leadership" — represented an important shift in the Soviet stand adopted at last year's Iceland summit, was described by Western observers as a sign of Soviet anxiety for quick progress on the disarmament question.

"There can be little doubt that his move was designed to take advantage of President Reagan's current difficulties,"

one Western diplomat explained. "But by the same token, it can be taken as a sign, too, of how concerned Mr Gorbachov is to switch resources from the military in order to rescue his own economy."

The details of the initiative, aimed at eliminating US and Soviet intermediate missiles over a five-year period, will be unveiled today at a special session of the US-Soviet negotiations in Geneva and in Moscow, where a press conference has been called by a number of senior officials, including Marshal Sergei Akhromyev, the Soviet Chief of Staff.

Western sources emphasized that key details in the new Soviet offer not made public in Mr Gorbachov's statement included the Kremlin's attitude towards the future of the British and French nuclear forces and the transfer of American nuclear weapons to Britain.

Mr Gorbachov, in his statement issued by Tass, pledged a reversal of the position adopted since the Reykjavik summit that the conclusion of any deal on eliminating me-

dium-range missiles from Europe was directly linked to agreement on all other elements of the package offered there, notably the "Star Wars" programme.

"We were assured more than once that if the Soviet Union singles out the issue of medium-range missiles from the Reykjavik package, there would be no difficulty to agree their elimination in Europe," he said. "A good opportunity is now being offered to prove that in practice. This is being awaited by the Europeans and by the peoples of other continents."

A far-reaching Soviet initiative had been expected last month to coincide with the staging of the much-publicized international "Peace Forum" in Moscow. Its delay was seen in diplomatic circles as caused both by a desire here to wait until after the publication of the Tower Commission report on the Iran arms affair and also to use it to swamp international criticism of Soviet nuclear tests after a unilateral freeze of 18 months.

The launching of the initiative has confirmed claims by a number of leading Western

statesmen who have recently visited Moscow that, despite the troubles of "Irangate", the Soviet Union is anxious to secure an arms control agreement with the Reagan Administration.

Mr Gorbachov was also seen in diplomatic circles here as greatly increasing with his offer his chances of undermining Washington efforts to broaden the interpretation of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty to facilitate early deployment of defensive "Star Wars" weapons systems.

Mr Gorbachov called on Saturday for a separate agreement on the abolition of the European medium-range missiles to be reached "without delay" along the lines of the tentative Reykjavik accord. This would permit Moscow to keep 100 of the warheads in the Asian part of the Soviet Union and the US an equal number of such missiles on its own territory.

Addressing West European concern about Soviet shorter-range missiles, the Soviet leader stated that Moscow was ready to open immediately a new series of negotiations aimed at reducing and eliminating them.

"So, there is a real opportunity to free our common European home from a considerable portion of nuclear burden within the shortest possible time," Mr Gorbachov added. "That would be a real and big step towards full deliverance of Europe from nuclear arms."

"By singling out the issue of medium-range missiles in Europe now, the Soviet Government still considers it highly important to reach agreement on substantial limitation, and then elimination, of strategic arms," Mr Gorbachov explained.

The Soviet leader, whose mastery of timing was once again noted by Western diplomats in Moscow, concluded his four-page announcement: "Despite all the difficulties and artificial obstructions, the Soviet Union is again showing its will to resolve the nuclear disarmament issue. The new way of thinking means an ability to listen to the voice of the public, in Europe and the world, to understand the concerns and interests of other peoples, and not to separate one's own security from the security of neighbours in our inter-connected world."

The missiles

The threat remains ten years later

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

The threat from the Soviet SS20 missiles began in 1977 when the first squadron was deployed in the Soviet Union, on the European side of the Ural Mountains.

The Russians claimed the SS20s were just updated SS4s and did not represent deployment of a new weapon. The Europeans, in particular Herr Helmut Schmidt, then Chancellor of West Germany, disagreed. In 1979 they appealed to the US to counter the SS20s with Europe-based missiles.

Under the so-called twin-track decision, it was agreed that a total of 572 Pershing 2 and cruise missiles would be deployed in five countries — Britain, West Germany, Italy, The Netherlands and Belgium — unless some arms control agreement could be reached with the Soviets that made deployment unnecessary.

The Nato deadline for the removal of all SS20s came and went in 1983 and in November of that year the first "flight" of 16 cruise missiles arrived at the RAF base on Greenham Common, in Berkshire, on board huge American transport planes.

The Soviets reacted by breaking off both the INF and Strategic (Start) negotiations in Geneva by January 1984. There followed a period of "hibernation" during which the Soviets reassessed their arms control policy.

In January 1985, Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, and Mr Andrei Gromyko, then Soviet Foreign Minister, met in Geneva. They agreed to reopen the arms control talks but with the three key areas — INF, Start, and strategic defence (SDI) — to be rolled into one.

Last year, prior to the summit in Reykjavik between President Reagan and Mr Gorbachov, there were strong indications on the Russian side that they would be happy



The missiles and the men in the middle: launches of a cruise, left, and an SS20, right, with the Nato Secretary-General, Lord Carrington, and Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher of West Germany, key figures in Europe's strategic arms debate.

to go for an INF deal which was not linked to Star Wars. But at Reykjavik, Mr Gorbachov took Mr Reagan by surprise by making it clear that the two arms control issues have to be inter-linked. It was one of the main reasons for the summit's failure.

Now Mr Gorbachov has returned to the separate INF proposal, judging that Mr Reagan might be eager for a quick agreement with the Russians to break out of his present domestic problems.

It is interesting that the latest proposal has come soon after the appointment in January of Mr Yuri Vorontsev, the Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister, as Mr Gorbachov's chief arms negotiator. It is the first time that the Soviet arms control team has been led by an official from the Foreign Ministry, not from the Ministry of Defence.

The present line-up of intermediate range missiles in Europe is as follows:

On the Soviet side: There are 441 SS20s, 270 of which are in the European region, threatening all Western Europe's capitals. The remainder are east of the Ural Mountains, threatening China, South Korea, Japan and Middle East countries such as Iran.

Each SS20 has three 150-kilotonne warheads with a

range of between 2,700 miles and 3,100 miles.

There are no longer any SS4s deployed. They have all been replaced by SS20s.

The Soviets also have 650 short-range INF missiles consisting of SS22, Scaleboards and SS23 Sads, with a range of over 620 miles. However, probably only about 200 are based in East Germany and Czechoslovakia. They were moved up to Warsaw Pact locations "in retaliation" for the deployment of Nato's cruise and Pershing 2 missiles.

On Nato's side: By 1988 there will be 572 cruise and Pershing 2 missiles in five countries. At present there are 96 cruise at Greenham Common, with a further 64 due for deployment at the RAF's Molesworth base in Cambridgeshire by the end of next year. The present total deployment is 236 cruise, including 112 at Comiso in Sicily, and 108 Pershing 2 based in West Germany. By 1988 The Netherlands will have 48 cruise and Belgium will have a similar number.

Cruise, which has a single warhead, has a maximum range of 1,550 miles. Pershing 2, also with a single warhead, has a range of 1,100 miles, although the Soviets claim it is 1,550 miles which means it could hit Moscow.

The world reaction

Cautious welcome from the West

Brussels — Nato has extended a cautious welcome to Mr Gorbachov's statement to start immediate separate negotiations on medium range missiles (Frederick Bonnar writes).

Mr Robin Stafford, the Secretary-General's spokesman, said: "This seems to be a welcome development," and added that Lord Carrington was on record as saying that linkage between SDI and an INF (Intermediate-range nuclear forces) agreement was artificial and unreasonable. "The apparent Soviet recognition of this marks a substantial step forward."

However, officials gave a warning about too much euphoria and point out that at their December meeting, Nato's Foreign Ministers, while fully supporting the envisaged elimination of these missiles from Europe, emphasized that such an agreement must not neglect the existing imbalances in shorter-range US and Soviet missiles.

● BERN: Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West

German Foreign Minister, said yesterday that Mr Gorbachov had removed the main obstacle to agreement on the complete dismantling and destruction of all American and Soviet nuclear longer-range missiles (John England writes).

This had met one of Bonn's central concerns on disarmament that, from the beginning, had been linked with Nato's double-track decision on the stationing of missiles in Europe, he added.

● EAST BERLIN: East Germany's state-run media, in an unusually quick reaction, voiced strong support yesterday for the Soviet offer (AP reports).

The state-run ADN news agency said Mr Gorbachov's announcement would give new impetus to negotiations on all East-West arms issues.

● TOKYO: The Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, said yesterday he welcomed "in principle" Mr Gorbachov's offer of a separate agreement (AFP reports).

Unreserved welcome for Howard Baker

Reagan urged to admit errors in TV address

From Michael Binyon, Washington

A chastened President Reagan said at the weekend that he would waste no time in preparing for two more years of "aggressive work". And he praised Mr Howard Baker, his new White House Chief of Staff, saying he had "enormous respect" for his abilities and talents.

He also said in his weekly radio address that he was studying the Tower report on the Iran affair and consulting Cabinet members, Congress and advisers.

"After a full evaluation, I'll speak to you again mid-week about this issue in detail, and about how we can move forward from here."

He paid tribute to Mr Donald Regan, the former Chief of Staff, whose curt note of resignation on Friday ended

his last-ditch efforts to remain in office a further week, and brought to a climax a week of turmoil and political crisis.

He said that, after six years of "outstanding service" in the Treasury and White House, Mr Regan had indicated some time ago that he wanted to return to private life.

Mr Reagan had therefore "graciously" accepted the resignation of a "friend and valuable and trusted member of the Administration".

His comments attempted to put a better face on the melodramatic way in which Mr Regan was finally forced out of office after an embarrassing and protracted public feud with Mrs Nancy Reagan.

Mr Reagan, known to be squeamish about sacking associates, never formally told Mr Regan to leave, and he first

heard he had been sacked when the television announced the appointment of his successor.

According to White House sources, he gave vent to his violent temper, wrote his letter of resignation and left without seeing the President.

America welcomed his departure unreservedly, with congressmen from both parties praising Mr Reagan's choice of a new Chief of Staff as "inspired" and saying it would give "instant credibility" to the Administration.

Senator Edward Kennedy, a Massachusetts Democrat, said it would have taken Mr Baker "about one second to veto the arms deal with Iran."

He was a patriot with the right combination of "intellect, wisdom and savvy".

Vice-President George Bush said the President had made a swift and wise choice.

"The President is on top of this. He has my full support," he told Republicans in New Hampshire.

Mr Baker will begin working full-time today. But within hours of his appointment, two of his aides had begun attending White House meetings, and were preparing for the transition. Mr Baker has a free hand to re-organize the White House staff, and he is expected to dismiss many of the aides appointed by Mr Regan.

Many of the advisers the President consulted at the weekend urged him to accept blame and admit mistakes in his television address to the nation, expected on Wednesday.

The Democrats have offered to help Mr Reagan out of the political morass.

President Reagan's popularity has reached the lowest level of his presidency following the Tower report, with 53 per cent of Americans giving him a negative performance rating, according to a poll released at the weekend.

Newsweek magazine found that only 40 per cent of those questioned gave Mr Reagan a positive performance.

SAN JOSE: Costa Rica's Legislative Assembly has called for a bipartisan inquiry into reports in the Tower Commission that Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North and other Administration officials threatened to cut off US aid if Costa Rica revealed the existence of a clandestine US-built airstrip used for Contra supply flights (Martha Honey writes).

COMMENTARY



Geoffrey Smith

The chorus of approval that has greeted Mr Howard Baker's appointment as White House Chief of Staff must have been just what Mr Reagan was praying for. The President needed someone whose very appearance on the scene would inspire confidence and indicate that this was a new beginning.

After the Tower report there was no way that the need for change could be denied. Since its publication I have heard nobody here in Washington question the extent of the shambles it portrays. The severity of its condemnation forces the Administration to look to the future because it has become impossible to defend the past.

The choice of a new chief of staff became therefore not just a managerial appointment but also a political signal. A dramatic selection was required to indicate a sharp break with the past and to show that the President himself had drawn the necessary conclusions.

An apparently safe choice of a sound, unobtrusive administrator would have been the biggest risk of all. In going instead for a major political figure who had been nursing presidential ambitions of his own, Mr Reagan has responded to the gravity of the occasion.

It is a brilliantly imaginative appointment. But in applauding it one should not ignore the gamble that both the President and Mr Baker are taking.

Reagan entering his third term

Reagan delegates control has been made abundantly plain by the Tower report. He runs his Administration as an extraordinarily loose reign, and it does not seem to me realistic to expect him to change his ways now.

Not surprisingly, the nature of the Reagan presidency has varied according to the contrasting approaches of his two previous chiefs of staff. With his third chief of staff Mr Reagan is in a sense entering his third term.

Yet here he is handing over the key role in co-ordinating, and possibly in developing, the Administration's strategy to a powerful man of independent judgement whose political instincts differ from his own. Already this has drawn some cries of anguish from the Republican right.

Mr Baker should not be mistaken, however, for a liberal Republican. He is above all a pragmatist. As Senate majority leader he saw it as his role to get as much of the Reagan programme through Congress as possible.

He will interpret his task as chief of staff in similar fashion: to help Mr Reagan not to fight him. But if Mr Baker is to help him he will need to get a grip on the White House.

If he is to do that he will have to assert his authority with other strong personalities, some of them far more ideological than he is.

He could not have risen to become Republican leader in the Senate without being quite an accomplished political fighter. But he may find that there are tough battles still to be won if he is to exercise control within the Administration, rather than simply being an adornment to it.

Being a pragmatist did not stop Mr James Baker, now the Treasury Secretary, from being a highly effective chief of staff during Mr Reagan's first term. But he found the incessant struggles with the Republican right a wearing process, and he has one asset that Mr Howard Baker does not possess: He is an efficient administrator.

In the Senate Mr Howard Baker relied heavily upon strong administrative back-up. If he is to succeed now in supporting the President, he in his turn will need a good deal of support. He does not convey the impression of being one of nature's staff officers.

If he is able to establish his position within the Administration, he may have more influence on the fortunes of the United States than he would ever have done in a forlorn and probably half-hearted bid for the presidency himself.

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Torture in southern Lebanon

Shias describe prison terror

From Robert Fisk
Shakra
Southern Lebanon

Lebanese prisoners emerging from a secret jail deep inside Israel's occupation zone in southern Lebanon are giving chilling accounts of torture with electrodes and beatings and whipping with wire. Accounts of their ordeal have been given in such detail that the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross are now convinced of their authenticity — although powerless to help the 300 Shia Muslim men and women still held in the al-Khiam prison.

"Horrible things are done there — we hear the screams at night," a senior UN officer said. "But what can we do? We have no power to enter the place and the Israelis say it's nothing to do with them." Amnesty International, which has already expressed its deep concern about the torture reports, says that there are "procedural safeguards" that are supposed to prevent the torture of prisoners in Israeli-

occupied territory but that "even those safeguards were absent" in southern Lebanon.

In a country in which brutality has been tolerated if not encouraged by various occupation forces, including the Syrians, and in which torture allegations have been used as propaganda by all sides, the ordeal of the inmates of al-Khiam might have been overlooked by the outside world. But their fate has now become intimately entangled with that of the foreigners kidnapped in Beirut.

For these prisoners are Lebanon's "other hostages" — the men and women whose freedom has been demanded

in return for the lives of American, French and other foreigners kidnapped in Beirut. Some are undoubtedly members of the Lebanese guerrilla movement fighting to end the continued Israeli occupation. They have been imprisoned without trial or hearing and without their families being informed.

Most were taken from their homes by Israeli soldiers. Others were kidnapped by gunmen from the ruthless "South Lebanon Army" militia, which is armed, trained and paid by the Israelis.

Prisoners released from the jail over the past 12 months have described to *The Times* how they were tortured with electric wires attached to their genitals, fingers and tongue in an effort to extract confessions about their suspected role in the resistance and for information about two captured Israeli intelligence agents.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has repeatedly been denied access to the prison by the Israelis and by the "SLA".

The jail, built around a disused World War Two airfield and guarded by gunmen of the "SLA" militia — has already been condemned by Amnesty International which has called, in vain, for an Israeli investigation. The Israelis say that the "SLA" is responsible for the jail but the prison stands deep inside the Israeli occupation zone.

Former prisoners have stated that Israeli officers visit the cells on Mondays and Thursdays to interrogate inmates and that Israeli, while never participating in the ill-treatment, were sometimes present during torture.

None of the prisoners interviewed by *The Times* wished to have their names published. One said he had been told by an Israeli officer in the village of Taibe that he would be taken back to al-Khiam if he spoke to journalists. But all

gave consistent accounts of their imprisonment.

A girl who said she had her blouse torn open and was threatened with rape by "SLA" men when she was first interrogated outside the prison, recounted to *The Times* how she was whipped with steel cord and then treated by a Lebanese Christian doctor for cuts to her face in a darkened room at the prison. She said she slept with cotton wool in her ears to stifle

the screams of male prisoners. The girl said she was repeatedly threatened with rape after being arrested in Shakra in February last year and was beaten in the abdomen by "SLA" men. "They wanted me to tell them about a man called Abdullah Gamush," she said. "An Israeli came and told these men to stop beating me but when I told him I knew nothing, he left and another 'Lahad' man came back and beat me. He tore open my blouse and said there were 10 men who were going to rape me. I told him I would die rather than be raped and he whipped me. The whip came round my face and there was a big scar on my face and blood."

Another prisoner said that he had been arrested by Israelis in Shakra village — on the edge of the Israeli occupation zone — in February last year and taken to al-Khiam aboard an Israeli army lorry. "We went there in the lorry with a jeep in front and a jeep behind, both carrying Israeli soldiers," he said. "We were ordered to close our eyes when we got there and put our hands on the wall. We were hooded. Then they banged our faces into the wall. When we fell

down, we were kicked in the back and side. I don't know who did this — maybe it was the 'Lahad army' (using the name of the 'SLA' commander). We stood by the wall for two days.

"Then they took us in twos to a small room. There were no questions, nothing. It was two yards by two yards. I could see nothing. I spent a day hooded without food and with my hands tied behind my back. Then I was called to an interrogation room. They asked me for the location of two Israeli agents who had been captured. They asked if I was a member of the Hezbollah (the radical pro-Iranian 'Party of God' movement) and they started beating me. I was knocked off my feet and I saw from beneath my hood an Israeli. He was wearing a round cap (sic) on his head and was speaking with an Israeli accent. He stepped on my head."

After the beating, he said he was dragged to a chair by men who pulled his trousers down to his ankles. "They put a wire round my finger and told me to stick my tongue out. They put a wire on it and I sprang out of the chair. I could not control myself. Then the second time they took my pants down and put the wire on my penis. Twice they did this and the pain was terrible."

Another former prisoner said he was seized by the Israelis near the village of Haris in February last year and was taken to the town of Bint Jbeil in the Israeli occupation zone and then to al-Khiam.

"They took me to a room and put a wire on my penis and asked if I belonged to Amal (the Shia Muslim militia). They put a piece of metal on my head and there was this terrible pain. For five days they did this. Then I was put in a cell which I could only crouch in. I cried all the time and I could hear other people crying."



The Amal militia leader, Mr Nabih Berri, left, and the Druze militia chief, Mr Walid Jumblatt, leaving yesterday's joint Lebanese and Syrian meeting in Damascus.

Amal plays down 'mutiny'

Beirut (AP) — Mr Hassan Hashem, the deposed deputy chairman of the Shia Muslim Amal militia, yesterday claimed he had seized control of the militia's mainstream in south Lebanon.

Mr Hashem, calling his mutiny a "corrective movement", said his supporters had seized Amal offices throughout south Lebanon, except those in the market town of Nabatiyeh, 37 miles southeast of the capital.

In a communiqué issued from his hometown of Marwanieh, in the country's south, Mr Hashem said his forces had laid siege to Nabatiyeh where Mr Berri's two main commanders held out.

Amal spokesmen in Beirut played down the mutiny as "insignificant and bound to quickly fall apart", saying Mr Hashem commands the allegiance of only 150 fighters at Marwanieh only.

A spokesman, who declined to be named, said: "What they did is that they set up a checkpoint on the coastal highway just south of Sidon and turned back travellers to the south, telling them 'there is an uprising under way. Your safety will be imperilled if you don't go back'."

Reporters in Sidon, the provincial capital of south Lebanon, said the Palestine Liberation Organization appeared sympathetic to Mr Hashem's uprising.

They said pro-Iranian Shia factions in the south, including Hezbollah, also were "in-

actively sympathetic" because they shared Mr Hashem's resentment of Syria's recent dispatch of troops to Beirut's Muslim sector.

The Amal spokesman said Mr Hashem, aged 32, had been "flirting" with the PLO, which also opposed Syria's military intervention last Sunday to smother a week of factional fighting that left more than 300 dead.

Mr Berri and Mr Walid Jumblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party militia, along with other Muslim government leaders who requested the Syrian intervention, are holding talks with Syrian officials in Damascus on the progress of Syria's law-enforcement drive in west Beirut.

Peres in Cabinet clashes on peace

From Ian Murray
Jerusalem

There were sharp exchanges inside the divided Israeli Cabinet yesterday when Mr Shimon Peres, the Foreign Minister, reported on what he had agreed in Cairo last week about trying to set up an international peace conference on the Middle East.

But, unable to force the issue, Mr Peres now appears to be waiting for Egypt to persuade King Hussein of Jordan to come up with firm proposals about the conference before he makes any move which would endanger the coalition Government.

Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, firmly insisted yesterday that there could be no question of an international conference without the agreement of the Cabinet. Mr Peres, aware he did not command a majority, backed away from forcing the issue.

After the meeting Mr Peres said: "There is a dispute on the international conference and we must come to a decision if there is to be any advancement on this. I am continuing with the peace process and I have not changed my position. If Jordan comes up with peace proposals, we will talk about it. This is what we are doing."

Mr Moshe Shaleh, the Energy Minister and a close Labour Party colleague of Mr Peres, said that during the Cabinet meeting Mr Shamir had for the first time brought up the possibility of ending the coalition. "The whole issue brings up the question of whether the two parties can work together," Mr Shaleh said. "When there is something concrete we will discuss what to do."

Torture in Namibia

Officer tells of jail beatings

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

Chilling disclosures about the interrogation methods used by South African security police have emerged in a trial in Windhoek, capital of South West Africa (Namibia) of eight men charged under the Terrorism Act.

A veteran black member of the force, Warrant-Officer Nkomo Nampala, said in the Windhoek Supreme Court last week that he believed the use of violence on prisoners was justifiable to some extent to achieve certain results.

"You thrash him until he cracks, until he points out what has to be pointed out," he said.

He was asked by Mr Brian O'Lyne, counsel for the eight men on trial: "Where does it end?"

Warrant-Officer Nampala, a member of the police force for 13 years, replied: "We don't beat them to death." Mr O'Lyne asked if this meant that normal rules preventing abuse of prisoners did not apply when security police were dealing with suspected terrorists of the South West Africa People's Organization (Swapo).

He replied: "As long as we don't kill them." Warrant-Officer Nampala's testimony before the Windhoek Supreme Court has been reported in detail by the Johannesburg *Weekly Mail*, the radical newspaper founded by members of the liberal *Road Daily Mail*, which was closed down by its owners nearly two years ago.

There has been practically no coverage of the trial in the South African press. According to the *Weekly Mail*, the eight are facing almost 200 counts of alleged participation in murder, "terroristic acts" and the illegal possession of arms and explosives between 1982 and 1985. Two of them are alleged Swapo insurgents and the others are civilians accused of helping them.

One of the accused, Mr Andreas Heita, stripped to the waist in court to show scars on his chest and across his back. Warrant-Officer Nampala, who arrested him, said he did not have any of the wound marks when he was detained nor had they occurred during his arrest.

Sri Lanka battles intensify

Colombo (AFP) — Thousands of civilians have fled fierce fighting between government troops and Tamil separatists around Kattuan in northern Sri Lanka that claimed at least 19 lives at the weekend.

A member of the Jaffna Citizens' Committee said that nearly 4,000 people had left their homes to escape continuing heavy fighting on the Jaffna peninsula. No casualties were reported in yesterday's fighting, but military reports said 16 separatists and three government soldiers had been killed on Saturday when troops overran rebel positions at Kattuan, close to a military airport.

Migrants held

Kuala Lumpur (AFP) — Malaysian authorities have detained 26 illegal immigrants believed to be Bangladeshis in Northern Kedah state.

Lorry disaster

Quito (AP) — A timber lorry crashed into a passenger bus and then hit other five cars, killing 42 people and injuring 24 at the weekend.

Tax protest

Bastia, Corsica (AFP) — Corsican separatists blew up the main tax office in Bastia, after forcibly evacuating two families that lived in the building.

Culture pact

Dhaka (AFP) — Bangladesh and India signed an agreement to foster greater cultural exchanges in history, social studies, science and other areas.

Pot luck

Harare (AFP) — A 90-year-old Zimbabwean man found guilty of possessing marijuana was given a suspended jail sentence here due to his age, although he had already served sentences for 17 previous marijuana convictions.

Dissent spreads in Afrikaner laager

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The disaffection within the ranks of South Africa's ruling National Party (NP) spread further at the weekend with the announcement that a group of leading academics and businessmen are to sponsor an independent candidate to run against the Government in Stellenbosch, Western Cape, in the white general election on May 6.

She is Dr Esther Latagan, a local businesswoman and former academic, who has resigned from the NP to challenge its sitting MP in Stellenbosch, Mr Piet Marais. Married to a theologian at Stellenbosch University, Dr Latagan is the daughter of a former National Party MP for the nearby town of Peka.

"I realised that South African politics had reached a stalemate," Dr Latagan said at the weekend. "Government policy has become tainted. There is no vision, so I decided to take a stand." Stellenbosch is the oldest Afrikaans-speaking university in the country, and its current Chancellor is President Botha.

Chissano visits Harare as offensive steps up

From Jan Raath, Harare

President Chissano of Mozambique arrives in the Zimbabwean capital today for a four-day visit, preceded by major developments in military operations by the two countries against the Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) movement.

It is his first state visit to his country's closest ally since he became President in November last year after the death of Samora Machel.

A new offensive, chiefly by the Zimbabwean Army and Air Force, has been launched in the provinces of Zambesia and Tete.

The offensive carries vital implications for the region's South African controlled transport system, as well as holding

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EDUCATIONAL

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD DEPARTMENT OF METALLURGY AND SCIENCE OF MATERIALS in association with MANSFIELD COLLEGE UNIVERSITY LECTURER IN MATERIALS SCIENCE

The University proposes to appoint a University Lecturer in the Department of Metallurgy and Science of Materials from 1 October 1987 or as soon as possible thereafter. The Lecturer is expected to teach for the new joint Honour School of Electronic and Structural Materials Engineering, and also for the Honour Schools of Metallurgy and Science of Materials, and Metallurgy, Economics and Management, and to carry out research in Materials Science. Preference will be given to applicants with interests in corrosion and protection. The University stipend will be according to age on the scale (subject to review) from £10,000 p.a. (at age 24 or under) to £16,700 p.a. The University Lectureship may be held in conjunction with a Fellowship at Mansfield College. Further particulars about the Lectureship and the College Fellowship may be obtained from Professor Sir Peter Hirsch, FRS, Department of Metallurgy and Science of Materials, Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PH, to whom applications (ten typed copies, or one from overseas applicants), together with the names of three referees should be sent so as to arrive not later than 30 March 1987. Separate application is not necessary for the associated College post.

MONASH UNIVERSITY Melbourne, Australia CHAIR OF GERIATRIC MEDICINE

Applications are invited for appointment to the Foundation Chair of Geriatric Medicine, Caulfield Hospital, a Geriatric and Rehabilitation Hospital, where the Professor will also hold the appointment of Director of Geriatric Services. The Professor will also be a Consultant in Geriatric Medicine at Alfred Hospital, a major acute care Teaching Hospital. Applicants should be medically qualified specialist physicians with qualifications registrable in Victoria and be able to provide leadership and direction in teaching and research activities in geriatric medicine. Salary: \$A68,781 per annum which includes a clinical loading of \$A10,433 per annum. Superannuation, travel and removal allowance, and temporary housing assistance. Information on application procedure and further particulars may be obtained from the Registrar, Monash University, Clayton, 3168, Victoria, Australia, or the Secretary General, Association of Commonwealth Universities (Aps), 36 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PF. Applications should reach the Registrar not later than 1 May 1987. Council reserves the right to make no appointment or to appoint by invitation at any stage. AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



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der Universität Zürich
Rämistrasse 71, 8006 Zürich

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON DEPARTMENT OF EXTRA-MURAL STUDIES

PICKUP MANAGER

The Department of Extra-Mural Studies wishes to appoint a Pickup Manager, for one year, with the likelihood of renewal for a second year. The post is financed by a Department of Education & Science PICKUP (Professional, Industrial and Commercial Upgrading) award. The Manager's duties will be to explore new opportunities for the Department of Extra-Mural Studies to deploy the University's resources in the development of professional, industrial and commercial education, training and staff development.

The Manager will be a graduate with industrial, commercial or professional experience and an interest in post-experience vocational education. The post will suit someone with experience of management and/or marketing in public administration, transport or communications, who can show evidence of entrepreneurial talent.

The initial salary will be within Grade 11 of the National Salary Scales for University Administration Staff, £12,280 to £15,700 per annum (under review) plus London Allowance £1,393, and will be determined by qualifications, age and experience.

Further particulars and application forms are available from the:

Assistant Personnel Officer
University of London
Senate House
Malet Street, London
WC1E 7HU

Tel: 01-636 8000 Ext.3248

Closing date for applications: Thursday 26 March 1987

THE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF WALES ABERYSTWYTH APPOINTMENT OF PRINCIPAL

The College is seeking a successor to its Principal, Dr Gareth Owen, who will retire on 30 September 1988.

Persons interested in being considered for the post or wishing to suggest anyone for consideration are invited to write, in confidence, to Sir Melwyn Rosser, President, c/o the Registrar and Secretary, The University College of Wales, Old College, King Street, Aberystwyth, SY23 2AX by 31 March 1987.

The University College hopes to receive applications from persons with a wide variety of background and experience for this post of chief academic and administrative officer of the College. Further information about the post and the College may be obtained from the Registrar and Secretary.

The Selection Committee will not necessarily confine its consideration to those who submit applications in response to this advertisement.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON

Faculty of Medicine CHAIR OF CHEMICAL PATHOLOGY AND HUMAN METABOLISM

Applications are invited from medically or scientifically qualified candidates for the Chair in Chemical Pathology and Human Metabolism, which will become vacant in October 1987 following the retirement of Professor B. E. Clayton. Further details may be obtained from the Secretary and Registrar, The University, Southampton, SO9 5NH, to whom applications (11 copies from applicants in the UK) should be sent before 8 May 1987.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE Faculty of English

Applications are invited for a temporary teaching appointment for two years from 1 October 1987.

Applicants should be prepared to teach and examine in either or both of the fields of narrative and of Victorian studies.

The salary will be on the scale £8,505 to £10,375.

Further information may be obtained from Miss R. M. Harrison, Administrative Assistant, Faculty of English, 9 West Road, Cambridge, CB3 9DP, to whom applications (seven copies) should be sent, so as to reach her not later than 3 April 1987.

University Of London CHAIR OF PSYCHOLOGY AT ROYAL HOLLOWAY AND BEDFORD NEW COLLEGE

The Senate invite applications for the above chair. Applications (10 copies) should be submitted to The Teachers' Section (T), University of London, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU, from whom further particulars should first be obtained. The closing date for receipt of applications is April 1987.

UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS CHAPLAIN

Applications are invited for the post of CHAPLAIN to the University. Salary £9,800 per annum plus free house and contribution towards heating costs; grant towards expenses of furniture removal. The appointment is for five years.

Applications (two copies preferably in typescript) with the names of three referees, should be sent to arrive not later than 25 March 1987 to the Establishments Officer, The University, College Gate, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9AJ, from whom further particulars may be obtained.

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UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER LECTURER IN CONTINUING EDUCATION

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in the Department of Continuing Education. The person appointed will have a primary interest in adult/continuing education as a field of study and practice and will contribute to the University's Open Studies programme, to the teaching of adult/continuing educators, and to research in this field.

Salary on the Lecturer scale: £8020 - £15700 p.a. (under review).

Further particulars and application forms from:

The Registrar,
University of Warwick,
Coventry CV4 7AL
(0203 523627)

Quoting Ref. No. 32/5A/86.

Closing dated 28th March 1987.

WORCESTER COLLEGE, OXFORD

Hawthornedon Fellowship in English Literature

The College intends to elect to the Hawthornedon Official Tutorial Fellowship in English Literature from 1 October 1987. The appointment will be in the field of 19th and 20th century literature, but the successful candidate will also be expected to teach literature of the 18th century. The title of University Lecturer (C.U.F.) may be conferred on the holder of the post.

Application forms and further particulars are obtainable from the college Secretary, Worcester College, Oxford, OX1 2HS. Completed forms should reach her by 6 April, 1987.

EXETER COLLEGE OXFORD

Members of Exeter College intending to come to Oxford on Saturday 14th March to vote in the election for the Chancellorship of the University, are welcome to lunch in College at 1pm. Please notify college secretary 0865 279648 in advance.

university college of swansea

Chair of Development Policy and Planning Director of the Centre for Development Studies

Applications are invited for an established Chair in the Centre for Development Studies from the soonest date that can be arranged. The holder of the Chair will serve as the Director of the Centre for Development Studies for a period of five years in the first instance. The person appointed will be expected to foster multi-disciplinary research and teaching such as is already well established in the Centre and to have experience in negotiating with national and international funding agencies.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Registrar, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP, to whom applications (10 copies) should be sent by Friday, April 3, 1987.

HISTORY OF PARLIAMENT TRUST

Three temporary research assistants required to draft biographies, two for the early seventeenth century and one for the early eighteenth. The appointments are for one year, starting date to be arranged. Applications within one week of the appearance of this advertisement, with c.v., examples of written work (not necessarily published) and s.a.e. to:

General Editor
History of Parliament
34 Tavistock Square
London WC1H 9EZ.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON SCHOOL EXAMINATION BOARD

ASSISTANT TO THE MODERN LANGUAGES SUBJECT OFFICER

A vacancy exists for a graduate in Modern Languages (preferably including German and/or Spanish) to provide assistance with the organisation of GCE Examinations in French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish. Previous office experience is essential and teaching experience would be useful. Keyboard skills and a working knowledge of statistics advantageous. Starting salary will be at a point determined by age, qualifications and experience on the scales £7374 to £9728 to £9860 per annum. Four weeks leave plus Public Holidays plus 5 further days.

For further information and an application form please contact Miss J. Slater, Assistant Personnel Officer (SEB) Stewart House, 32, Russell Square, London W1B 5DN, telephone 01 636 8000 ext 4554. Closing date for receipt of applications: 23 March 1987.

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

Department of Law

Research Studentship Scheme

The Department is offering one or more full-time Research Studentships to graduates who have, or expect to obtain, good honours degrees in Law and who intend to register for higher degree study. The studentships will be offered for the academic year 1987-88 in the first instance. The successful candidate(s) will be expected to register for the degree of LL.M. and to carry out a limited amount of tutorial assistance in the Department.

Each studentship will be for £5,000 which includes an allowance for registration fees and teaching assistance.

Applications, together with the names of three referees, should be received not later than 31 April 1987 by the Administrative Sub-Dean, Faculty of Law, The University, P.O. Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BA, from whom further particulars may be obtained.

ST. CATHERINE'S College invites alumni to vote in the election of the Chancellor on Saturday 14 March to a special lunch, 12.45 for 1.00 p.m. to the Secretary for Alumni.

VOLUNTARY SECTOR CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL

SECRETARY (Head of Secretariat)

- Applications are invited for the post of Secretary of the VSCC.
- The VSCC was established by the Secretary of State for Education and Science in 1984 to represent the views of the Voluntary Colleges in discussions with the Department of Education and Science and the National Advisory Body.
- The current Secretary will return from his period of secondment on 30 June 1987 and the Council itself will be reconstituted from that date following a review currently being undertaken by the Department of Education and Science.
- The successful applicant will head a small Secretariat supporting the Council and will be responsible for advising the Council in the formulation and presentation of its views on the level of recurrent and capital funding required by the voluntary colleges to the Secretary of State and to the National Advisory Body for Public Sector Higher Education, and on other policy issues. The post requires significant administrative experience at a senior level together with a good understanding of the operation of the higher education system both at College and Government level.
- The successful applicant will be expected to take up post on 1 July 1987 or as soon as possible thereafter. Appointment in the first instance will be for 20 August 1990. The secondment of a member of staff from other relevant employment would be particularly welcome. Where permanent employment is sought, confirmation would be subject to review at the end of an initial twelve months period.
- Salary scale: £19,638-£21,639 (Extendable in appropriate cases) plus London Weighting.
- Please send applications in writing, giving brief personal details, a curriculum vitae and the names of up to three referees to Dr David Harrison, Chairman of the Voluntary Sector Consultative Council, c/o The University of Exeter, Northcote House, Queen's Drive, Exeter, EX4 4QJ by 31 March 1987.

EDUCATION CONTINUES ON PAGE 23

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Shultz calls for hard work to maintain links with Peking

From Our Correspondent, Peking

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, arrived in Peking yesterday for a six-day visit to China after visiting Hong Kong and the southern Chinese city of Guilin.

Mr Shultz was greeted at Peking Airport by Mr Wu Xueqian, the Foreign Minister. Later, at a banquet held in his honour at the Great Hall of the People here and hosted by Mr Wu, Mr Shultz referred warmly to the Shanghai communiqué signed by China and the United States 15 years ago last Friday.

On Monday Mr Shultz is

expected to meet Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Prime Minister and acting Communist Party General Secretary, President Li Xiannian, Mr Li Peng, one of the most prominent Deputy Prime Ministers, General Zhang Aiping, the Defence Minister, and Mr Wu.

During his visit Mr Shultz is expected to have an interview with Mr Deng Xiaoping, China's senior leader.

Tomorrow Mr Shultz is expected to emphasize the benefits of economic reform when he travels to the east coast port city of Dalian to visit an American-sponsored business school there.

The US Secretary of State is also expected to try to convince the Chinese to end their shipments of arms to Iran. In addition, Mr Shultz plans to question Mr Deng and Mr Zhao about China's current "anti-bourgeoisie liberalization" campaign, and about recent Sino-Soviet border talks that were held in Moscow. He may complain to leaders about the expulsion of a US journalist almost a month ago.

"It is important that we remain open to each other as we seek to further strengthen our relationship," Mr Shultz told his hosts. "The peoples of our two countries have benefited from the success of our efforts to reduce barriers between our very different societies."

The Hong Kong handover

Two systems seek common ground for colony's future

From Robert Gries, Hong Kong

In Hong Kong these days the word "convergence" crops up frequently in discussions held everywhere from cocktail parties to kitchen tables concerning the territory's future. In what manner, those who use it ask, can the political and economic systems of Hong Kong and Peking "converge", or find a *modus vivendi*, by 1997?

That is when Hong Kong will, under the terms of the Sino-British joint declaration of 1984, revert to Chinese sovereignty. Although the accord provides for the preservation of Hong Kong's free-wheeling capitalist system for half a century beyond 1997, many people in the territory appear to believe that the issue must be decided soon, before Britain formally withdraws.

Behind the word and the question it raises, lies the recognition among the people

generally scowling when out in public. These days, however, they have become more polished in the ways of the decadent West, and not just because they often wear lounge suits. "They're the best partygoers in town," said a Western journalist.

Those results have not been achieved without some effort. When Mr Xu took over his duties five years ago, he had a habit of making grand pronouncements on the territory's future as though he were already the governor. He has since become more circumspect.

The Chinese have also pursued their study of how Hong Kong works. Gone are the days when Mr Wang Guangying's Peking-backed Everbright company lost millions of US dollars in the Hong Kong real estate market.

Today, Peking has become a shrewd land speculator in the territory, and may now own more land than any other single corporation.

For its part, Hong Kong's Government is making efforts to involve more fully the local Chinese community in running Hong Kong. Positions in district administrations once filled by British civil servants are now going to locals. Local Chinese are also replacing Britons in the middle and upper echelons of the Royal Hong Kong Police Force.

It is not known what influence Sir David Wilson, aged 52, will have when takes up his duties as Hong Kong's new Governor in April. Sir David is said to be an energetic "hands-on" administrator who has already successfully weathered a controversy over his Chinese name.

Bowing to Cantonese criticism that his Chinese name, Wei Dewei (Ngai Tak Ngai in Cantonese) had two too many "ghost" characters in it and an unlucky number of strokes, he has gracefully changed it to the more delicate Wei Yichu.

The once all-powerful Britons who headed Hong Kong's leading trading houses and guided the colony's destiny have been replaced by Chinese business barons such as Sir Y. K. Pao and Mr Gordon Wu.

These men, and a score more, are trying to forge economic links with the mainland that will translate into good political relations in the future.

Whether Hong Kong and China can "converge" economically and politically by 1997 remains in doubt. "The two systems and their underlying philosophies are so different you might well wonder what is going to happen after 1997," a Western diplomat said this week.

Seoul still remembers

Seoul (AP) — National flags fluttered from apartment balconies yesterday as South Korea marked Sami Day, which back in 1919 saw the beginning of a movement against Japanese colonial rule.

The day still points to the division between South Korea

and Japan. An article in a Seoul newspaper by a Seoul National University sociology professor read: "We could forgive the Japanese if they so beg, but we can never erase the sufferings from our minds and barbaric crimes committed by them."

Philippines offers amnesty to rebels

From Keith Dalton, Manila

President Aquino of the Philippines has offered amnesty to the country's communist and Muslim rebels if they give up their armed struggle within the next six months.

In a parallel move, General Fidel Ramos, chief of the armed forces, ordered the disbandment of all fraternal military organizations because, he said, they had caused "divisiveness" within the quarter-of-a-million-strong armed forces.

Covered by the abolition order are two groups whose members attempted two armed insurrections and are accused of plotting against the year-old Government.

Both moves are seen as consolidating Mrs Aquino's hold on power prior to congressional elections in May and minimizing the chances of a third attempt at a military coup d'état.

The long-awaited amnesty offer will hopefully "reunite families, bind the broken-hearted and heal the wounds of the nation," Mrs Aquino said on television.

The amnesty, beginning last Saturday, will be available to those who returned "of their own free will to the fold of the law," she said.



Mr Bernabe Buscayon, the former New People's Army chief, said that the NPA would ignore the amnesty.

Aviation 'fortress' breached

British Caledonian flies to Milan after 3-year fight

From Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent, Milan

A breach in one of Europe's most impenetrable aviation "fortresses" opened up yesterday when British Caledonian flew into Milan, ending a bitter three-year battle after the personal intervention of Mrs Thatcher.

Since BCal was granted a licence to serve the northern Italian city in 1984, the Italian authorities have tried to prevent the widening of the crack in the protective wall around Alitalia, the state airline.

But after Mrs Thatcher privately persuaded Signor Bettino Craxi, the Italian Prime Minister, at least to give competition a chance, the Garwick-based airline has managed to get its foot in the door.

Mr Michael Spicer, the British Aviation Minister, was on the first flight and told Italian aviation authorities who met him at the airport: "This new service carries with it a wider message. It is that the days are numbered when one courier from each of two nations around Europe serves the major cities in each other's country on an exclusive basis."

But the fight for greater liberalization of air services between the two countries is far from over. Italy remains opposed to the kind of competition Britain is seeking and

BCal already faces problems with its timetable and plan to use the new A 320 Airbus jets on the route after their delivery in spring 1988.

The obstacles put in BCal's path began almost as soon as Britain's Civil Aviation Authority granted it the licence to service Milan. The Italians flatly refused to designate two airlines on the route and wanted to maintain the cosy 50-50 pooling arrangement under which all the seats and revenue were shared between British Airways and Alitalia.

Then they refused to agree to an increase in the British share of the capacity on the route.

Next they demanded that the flight take place at what BCal regarded as completely

uncompetitive and inconvenient times. The dispute threatened to erupt into a major diplomatic row and it was only when Mrs Thatcher visited Signor Craxi that he gave the order to ease the objections.

Even so, BCal has had to agree to charge the same fares as both British Airways and Alitalia.

Now the two British airlines can provide up to 52 per cent of all the seats between Milan and London. But when the A 320 comes into service with 160 seats, 60 more than in the BA's current 111 jets, that 52 per cent will be exceeded and this is likely to lead to more arguments.

The timing of the airline's flights has now been agreed — but only for this month. Tomorrow an independent tribunal will examine BCal's summer plans and Italy's objections to them.

Mr Spicer remains optimistic: "In Europe we are beginning to prepare ourselves for an internal market in aviation ... Heads of governments have agreed a target date for this of 1992. In five years' time Community airlines will be able to compete freely with each other in terms of fares and service, flying the routes they judge to be commercially profitable."

Mr Spicer: sees an end to exclusive deals

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IF YOU HAD TO MAKE A DECISION NOW, WOULD YOU MAKE THE RIGHT ONE?

One thing separates top management from the rest.

The ability to make good decisions under intense pressure. Every day.

Handling such stress, both mental and physical, is just one of the qualities you will gain during training as a potential officer in the Territorial Army.

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To move across an open valley, you have split your platoon into three sections.

With you and your reserve as centre, your flank sections are ahead and above on the valley sides, below the skyline.

Suddenly your left flank

is pinned down by enemy fire.

Three enemy tanks

covering each other, rumble into view.

They are already traversing, sighting on you and your other section.

What is your course of action?

This is an exercise.

SPECTRUM

From wonder drug to bitter pill

'We may look back on the antibiotic era as a passing phase, an age in which a great natural resource was squandered'

The first of a new family of antibiotic drugs, the quinolones, have just appeared on the British market and doctors, struggling to fight diseases in many parts of the world, are impatient to get their hands on them. They represent a vital new weapon against an increasing number of super-resistant bacteria which have drastically reduced the usefulness of some of today's most widely-used antibiotics.

But the quinolones are being welcomed with anxiety as well as hope because so many "wonder drugs" have come forward in the antibiotic field, only to prove a disappointment after a few years. The reason too often has been that they have been used so indiscriminately that bacteria have been able to develop a swift resistance to them.

This tragic waste of drugs whose miraculous efficacy has transformed medicine since the 1940s and 1950s was largely avoidable. Some doctors warn that it is foolish to rely on the researchers to keep coming up with new cures as fast as the germs come up with new ways to get round them.

"We may look back on the antibiotic era as merely a passing phase in the long history of medicine, an age in which a great natural resource has been squandered," says Dr Ken Harvey, a microbiologist in Australia, a country whose hospitals have suffered some of the worst outbreaks of a particularly intractable form of resistance by the *staphylococcus* bacteria which can prevent surgical wounds healing.

The legacy of abuse is a world-wide problem which threatens the health of millions, says Dr Harvey. It has been inherited by some of the poorest countries as a result of a drive for profit by multinational drug companies, corruption in governments and ignorance by doctors and patients. He warns that although Third World countries suffer most, international travel means that drug-resistant organisms are imported to western nations.

But Dr John Dunne, head of the World Health Organization's



● After saving lives for half a century, the efficiency of antibiotics is under threat.

● New infections capable of beating the "wonder drugs" are creating problems in the hospitals of Britain and the jungles of the Third World.

● Beginning a three-day series, *The Times* examines the causes and effects of a crisis in the making.

pharmaceutical division, points out that in many countries which lack the resources of the developed world, the alternative to using antibiotics in ways that would be frowned on in the west is no treatment at all.

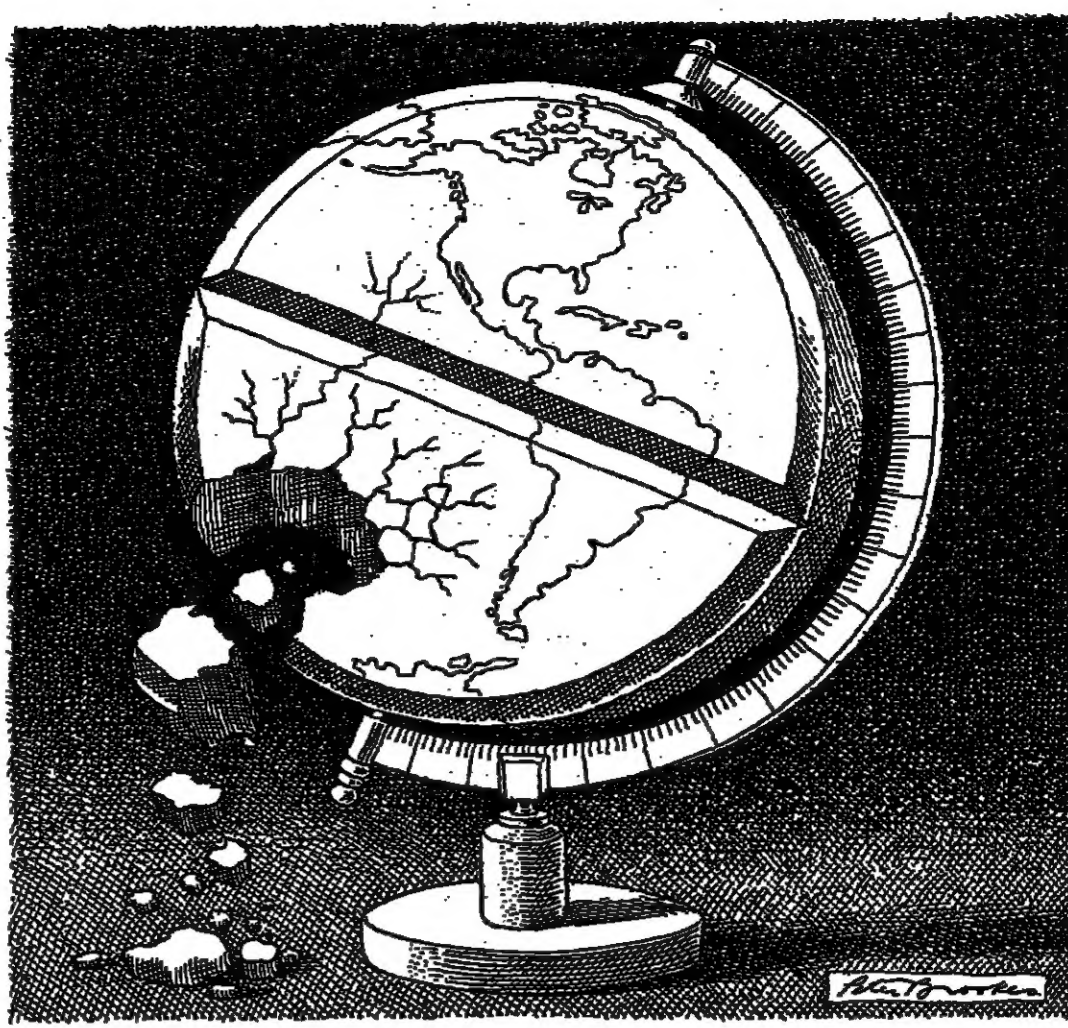
"These are life-saving drugs for very widespread diseases: either you use them or the child dies," he says. He believes that intractable resistances are more likely to develop in relatively prosperous parts of the world, where antibiotic use, if not properly controlled, can reach an intensity that developing countries can seldom afford.

The effects of resistance are seen in Third World respiratory diseases and typhoid, in hospital infections, in the treatment of cystic fibrosis, and in food poisoning, gonorrhoea, and other illnesses caused by bacteria.

Drug-resistant strains of ty-

phoid have caused thousands of deaths in Central America since they first appeared in Mexico in 1975. The bacteria which cause mastoiditis and everyday chest and digestive infections began in Britain to show signs of resistance to the first antibiotics within a couple of years of their introduction in the 1950s.

Bitter recriminations which began then have continued ever since — between doctor and doctor, and doctor and vet — for antibiotics are also used on a large scale in agriculture, and some kinds of resistance have been shown to arise there. In some countries, controls on the use of drugs for self-medication are so lax that antibiotics can be bought without restriction over the counter.



Ironically, modern medicine's lines of defence have come closest to breaking down completely in the very heart of its bastion, in high-technology district hospitals in the developed world. Hospitals in France, the USA, South Africa and the Middle East as well as in Britain and Australia have suffered persistent outbreaks of a resistant strain of *staphylococcus* which can ruin surgery, infect sores and ulcers and prove the last straw for patients already debilitated by other conditions. It has been recorded in more than a dozen London hospitals and in Liverpool, Leicester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Cambridge and elsewhere since it first appeared in 1976.

Until the advent of the quinolones — which are costly to use and, like all new drugs, still carry an uncertainty about whether harmful side-effects may

reveal themselves once they come into widespread use — only one antibiotic, vancomycin, has been holding the line against these microbes which were otherwise fully armed against antibiotic attack.

"If vancomycin resistance appeared, it would be a disaster," says Professor J.D. Williams of the London Hospital, which has suffered the largest and most persistent outbreak in Britain. "Some people say that there is no need to worry about resistance because we are always finding new drugs. The prophets of doom say that we are running right at the edge of disaster. With some vital organisms, and particularly with *staphylococcus aureus*, I think we are running right at the edge."

The effort and cost of keeping hospital infections at bay are a growing burden on our health services. Providing isolation facil-

ities of the highest standard would cost £500,000 for one hospital alone.

The heart of the dilemma of resistance is that the best policy for the patient as an individual is often not the best policy for patients in general. Faced with a vague ailment and aware that detailed tests take time and money, the harassed GP has every incentive to do the easiest thing and prescribe a wide-spectrum antibiotic. The doctor's Hippocratic responsibility is first and foremost to the actual patient, after all. The patient goes away satisfied, soon feels better, and probably abandons the course of treatment halfway.

But every time an antibiotic is used, there is a chance that the bacterium it is aimed at may develop a way of beating it. Indiscriminate use multiplies the germ's opportunities, and inad-

equates doses or unfinished courses help relatively resistant strains to thrive by clearing away less resistant ones. This can be bad for the patient, who may still harbour the germ, as it waits for its chance to strike again — but it can be worse for society if it puts a resistant germ into general circulation.

To avoid these dangers, doctors need to aim carefully and hit hard which requires skill, time and expense. Some doctors have become so acutely aware of the dangers that patients may find them uncomfortably reluctant to prescribe the remedy which would guarantee quick relief.

A recent increase in the incidence of mastoiditis may be a consequence of this reluctance, though it may also be because some doctors stick to the antibiotics they are used to, instead of selecting the most effective. Younger doctors tend to take the problem of resistance more seriously than older ones, and hospital doctors tend to be more on their guard than GPs because they are more likely to have seen the harm it can do.

If we could be sure that new drugs would always come along to replace old ones, the problem would not be too alarming. The drug companies continue to devote huge resources to research into new varieties of antibiotic, and have at their command a battery of technical resources undreamt of 20 years ago.

The advent of the quinolones shows that there are still valuable discoveries to be made. From the manufacturers' point of view, the superseding of older drugs opens the way for newer, more expensive versions with fresher copyrights. But for every drug that goes into production, thousands of substances are tested fruitlessly, and the cost of developing one new drug can easily top £30 million.

"In the constant battle between antibiotics and bacteria, we not only have troops ready to be used, but there is also a constant stream of fresh recruits in training," a spokesman for one of the great drug companies, declares.

But others fear that the repertoire of the antibiotics may one day be exhausted, as Dr Harvey warns. In that case, the speed with which the earlier discoveries, so immeasurably beneficial to mankind, have been allowed to become ineffectual will appear doubly reckless.

ANTIBIOTICS: FACT AND FICTION

● One myth surrounding the use of antibiotics is that alcohol and antibiotics will not mix. Patients around the weekend bar frequently attribute failure of their treatment to a couple of illicit pints. But there is no truth in the myth, except in the case of metronidazole, where alcohol should be avoided, and the tetracyclines, where it should not be taken in excess.

● The belief that people become resistant to antibiotics seems to be resistant to all contradictions. In fact people never become resistant. It is the infecting organism that may do so. It may lie latent in

the individual or spread. ● Although it is true that Sir Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin, it might never have been put to good use had it not been for an assistant of the bacteriologist. After his epoch-making observation of the effects of penicillin mould in 1929, Fleming put the culture aside without fully realizing its potential. Fortunately it was preserved through the foresight of Harold Raistrick until Ernst Chain took up the line of research in 1937. Within three years the drug was showing impressive results on human patients.

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Life or death decision: a medical worker in the Third World gives medicine to a sick child

The magical advent of cheap and effective antibiotic treatments for the ailments of the world is turning sour because of the reckless way the precious resource has been used in the less wealthy countries, says Dr Ken Harvey, a leading Australian microbiologist.

"We are looking at a problem that is more than just a medical or scientific one. It is a tragic story of corruption in governments, political lobbying, excessive drug promotion and failure to control use," he says. "We have to be very concerned about the widespread inappropriate use of these drugs in countries where there is little control and drugs are sold on roadside stalls to a population that doesn't understand the danger. People have to learn that there is not a magic pill for every ill."

Dr Harvey says that epidemics of gonorrhoea, salmonella, and gastro-enteritis have occurred in huge areas of south-east Asia as a result of massive over-prescribing of antibiotics to American troops in the Vietnam War. In Papua New Guinea, rural populations were given regular injections of long-acting drugs in an effort to control pneumonias. Predictably, he says, the targeted organisms quickly mutated to produce a resistant strain.

In South Africa, employers of black miners have caused similar serious problems among employees and their families. "The miners were given large doses of penicillin to offer them protection in unhygienic conditions. The result was that they suffered infections because bacteria became resistant to the drug," says Dr Harvey.



"We are looking at a tragic story of corruption in governments, excessive drug promotion and failure to control use of antibiotics"

DR KEN HARVEY

International travel brings the problem to the developed world. "We're literally getting a dose of our own medicine. We created resistant strains in these countries, and now when we go abroad we fall ill because of them."

Dr John Dunne, chief of the pharmaceutical division of the World Health Organization in Geneva, accepts that use of

antibiotics in the Third World often falls short of western standards, but insists that the benefits far outweigh the abuses.

"These are life-saving drugs. Respiratory diseases alone kill as many children around the world as malaria. Simple use in stereotyped situations by primary health care workers is the only option in many remote areas. The restrictions imposed in western countries to minimize resistance are simply beyond the resources of many countries. They cannot afford microbiologists in every hospital or skilled laboratory workers in every village to analyse samples, and so on," he says.

"I think everybody would deprecate sales over the counter. Antibiotics have no place in self-medication anywhere. But you cannot simply extrapolate ideal standards to the Third World."

Dr Dunne claims that the problem is often self-limiting. Resistance arising in great epidemics of typhoid in the Third World is often seen to decline once the crisis is past and antibiotic use declines again. As for the charge that Third World misuse creates dangers for the developed world, he agrees that there is a problem with some diseases like gonorrhoea, but insists that resistance is most likely to develop where antibiotics are used in the greatest concentrations — in high-technology hospitals.

"Where there is no regular supply of antibiotics, resistance is unlikely to develop and that unfortunately is the way of life for half the people of the world," says Dr Dunne.

Operation penicillin

How Britain's secret weapon helped win the war against sexual disease and the Germans

The role of the new drug penicillin in helping to win the Italian campaign in the Second World War dramatically illustrates the way drugs can be outflanked by the bacteria at which they are aimed.

The armies on both sides had to face the problem of widespread gonorrhoea. The usual treatment was by sulphonamides, a family of drugs introduced only in the mid-1930s. But resistance had already appeared, and the troops took the drugs in so haphazard a way that the disease became rampant. Soon both armies had thousands of troops out of action. But the Allies had their secret weapon, penicillin. It was in short supply and expensive, and so had been reserved for infections and the severely wounded. As the number of gonococcal victims increased, the generals changed their policy and the treatment of gonorrhoea was given first call on available supplies.

The result was that infected Allied soldiers could be cured without even leaving the field of battle and were back on duty within 48 hours.

The Germans were beaten, but the gonococcus was not. Penicillin remained universally effective until the late 1950s when resistance began to appear, initially because of changes in the cell wall of the organism. It spread only slowly at first, but became a serious problem in the Far East at the time of the



Frontline defence: a war casualty receives an injection of penicillin

Vietnam War, when penicillin was in heavy use by the US forces. It has recently appeared elsewhere, but has been readily controllable.

In 1976 a far more dramatic form of resistance appeared in three cases — one in London, one in Liverpool (both probably originating in West Africa) and one in a sailor in Western America who had recently returned from the Philippines.

This type of resistance occurs when the gonococcus

produces an enzyme, penicillinase, which splits penicillin and renders it useless. Unlike the earlier form of resistance, this form spreads rapidly. Cases caught abroad are now routinely treated by other antibiotics which remain effective.

Reports by George Hill, Thomson Frendes, Pearce Wright and Dr Thomas Stuttford

TOMORROW



Counting the cost of a hospital under siege from a super-bug

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1195

ACROSS									
1	Produce growth (6)	7		8		9		10	
2	Lather (4)	11		12		13		14	
3	Auction hammer (5)	15		16		17		18	
4	Dodge (7)	19		20		21		22	
5	Outer embryo layer (8)	23		24		25		26	
6	Tree trunk knot (4)	27		28		29		30	
7	Mission group (4,5)	31		32		33		34	
8	Status (4)	35		36		37		38	
9	Heavy rain (8)	39		40		41		42	
10	Eliza tomb (7)	43		44		45		46	
11	Kingdom (5)	47		48		49		50	
12	Whip (4)	51		52		53		54	
13	Spy (6)	55		56		57		58	
DOWN									
1	Fulcrum (5)	11		21		31		41	
2	Lubricant (3)	12		22		32		42	
3	Crown Jewels fortress (5,2,6)	13		23		33		43	
4	Dart (4)	14		24		34		44	
5	With mistrust (7)	15		25		35		45	
6	Heron-like wader (5)	16		26		36		46	
7		17		27		37		47	
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MONDAY PAGE

Life is no longer cosy in the executive suite. Sally Mouldsdales finds out how three professionals respond to a test of their skills

Testing time at the top

The British executive is a species fighting for its life in a jungle of rough, tough competition. This is the view of Terry Farnsworth, a senior manager at the London Business School, in his new book, *Test Your Executive Skills*, intended to make the mark in an area of publishing that is currently experiencing a boom.

Farnsworth himself has survived very well. He was already working in management development at a time when many British managers were still trumpeting "Managers are born, not made." Now 55, he joined the multinational 3M (UK) in 1968 to create their management development system. Five books and 19 years later, his department is still keeping its executives up to scratch.

"The environment in which the executive has to operate has changed enormously in the last 20 years," he says. "In the old days, working for a big company was more secure than the Salvation Army. Now companies have become lean, mean and hungry. They have had to streamline their organizations, jobs have gone, new ideas have come in and it's a totally different game. Life is no longer cosy in the executive suite."

It's not too bad in the management development business, though. Although stress is the subject of seminars at most conferences, centres and an almost de rigueur ailment among up-and-coming execs, Farnsworth says: "Stress comes about by having a one-ulcer man in a two-ulcer job. Or a one-ulcer woman — although

Farnsworth's books address themselves to *he, him and his*, a careful footnote points out that this is for the sake of convenience, not sexism. He is hardly plunging a new furrow. The Business Book Shop at the London Business School estimates that there are currently "many hundreds" of similar books available to the reading public.

Farnsworth believes executives can find it difficult to rate their effectiveness against objective yardsticks of performance.

"With a book you can do your own appraisal in the privacy of your own home and no one need ever know the results." The 50 tests contained in *Test Your Executive Skills* range from "Are You a Workaholic?" (sample question: do you ever get up during the night and begin working?) to "How well-read are you?" (question: how many management books do you read on average during a year?). *Power Plays* contains 22 "How to" chapters including "How to Functure a Plot and Confound a Conspiracy" and "How to Become a Living Legend."

'Ask first not what your company can do for you, but what you can do for yourself'

"Leadership," Farnsworth states, "is the most important skill the ability to motivate people to do what you want them to do because they want to do it. The second is communication. Also very important is the willingness of the executive to develop. High flyers tend to do, and find out, things for themselves. Ask first not what your company can do for you, but what you can do for yourself."

We asked three executives to answer some questions from *Test Your Executive Skills* and to comment on their responses to the book.



Marilyn Cox, 42, is the top female executive in British Airways' marketing department. She is one of 11 managers under the vision of about 20 people which spearheads the marketing strategy. Her job title is general manager and deputy head of products and brands. She sees her objective as changing the airline's attitude to how it markets itself. She is single.

● Cox has been with British Airways for 18 years. She has come up through the ranks, which included a stint as a member of flight crew. Since Lord King and Colin Marshall arrived in 1983, her rise has been meteoric. She was told that this was because she

what you're doing," she says. "You have to be willing to fight your corner, and you'll only do that if you're committed." She works from about 7.30am to late evening, and hasn't taken all her holidays in the last few years. "I have a list of objectives. It's not what I have to do in a day, but what I must achieve."

'You have to be willing to fight, and you'll only do that if you're committed'

"I think they mean an intrusive management style, which many British companies lack," she says. "Marketing research is invaluable, but there comes a point when you need a leap of the imagination to know what it takes for something to work." She describes herself as a doer. "It's probably frustration that drives me to see things through."

Her list of important executive skills is lengthy, and includes stamina and energy, but overall, she values total commitment. "You can't do a good job unless you believe in

asked to cancel any leave unless it was vitally important." She found most of the book's questions trivial — "but that doesn't mean they're not effective."

"A sensible, well-organized, efficient executive who may on occasion push herself too hard," says Farnsworth. "Her failure to take all her holidays may indicate a touch of insecurity. She should recognize that no-one is indispensable."



Robert Devereux, 31, is a director of the Virgin Group, and the managing director of Virgin Vision. The latter encompasses three businesses, a film and entertainment division, a broadcasting division and the provision of television and video facilities. The company has a turnover of £20 million. "We expect to double that this year," Devereux thinks about 200 people work for Virgin Vision; six report directly to him.

● Devereux admits to a burning ambition and an absolute determination to succeed. (Although he is answerable to the Chairman of Virgin, Richard Branson, who is his brother-in-law, he insists that the family connection is neither a plus nor a minus to his career.) To this end he never takes his full holiday entitlement, and even manages to work before his working breakfast. He's also extremely competitive, but then, he says, he has to be. "Basically, if you don't perform, you don't last very long."

'That's my main role now, getting the best out of the people who work for me'

Devereux is confident that he'll still be around in five years' time. "I'll be in the same position, but Virgin Vision will be a much more substantial company," he asserts.

His motivation is achieving objectives — "Profit is the bottom line" — and he sees his most important executive skill as managing people. "That's my main role now, getting the

best out of the people who work for me." He has learnt his management skills on the job and, he says with a laugh, he believes they are "reasonably" sound. He is not a man beset by doubts. "I don't normally do quizzes to find out about myself. I might look at a book like this, but I'm not convinced I'd learn much from it."

His reaction to a *Test Your Executive Skills* question asking him to choose between a long-term family commitment and a rush job at a book like this, but I'm not convinced I'd learn much from it."

at work was "Difficult to answer in a vacuum." However, he decided that he'd fulfil the commitment and then rush back to the office to finish the job. Farnsworth assessed Devereux as "the archetypal yuppie — a super-ambitious, highly-competitive workaholic who, unless he learns to relax, could be risking 'burnout' by 40, possibly sooner. Lives to work rather than works to live."



Sue Coupland, 34, is one of five group account directors in Young & Rubicam, one of Britain's largest advertising agencies. She is the senior liaison point between clients — such as Heinz and Dairy Crest — and the agency. She heads a team of 13 account handlers, with whom she works very closely. She is married and has a 10-month-old baby. In common with the others, she has had no formal training in management skills.

● Coupland believes that the important skills are not ones that can be taught. Awareness of different personalities and their skills is the vital factor when creating a team who all relate to the client. "The only way to become aware is through feedback, so you are very dependent on the people you work with."

'I hate to admit it, but I'm driven on by fear of failure; I don't want to fall behind'

Almost 50 per cent of her time is spent getting people working together well. "I hate to admit it, but I'm driven on by fear of failure," she says. "I adore this job, and I'm determined to get better and better because the people under me are getting better and I don't want to fall behind."

Her determination, she says, has been tempered by the arrival of her son. Indeed, the question of work versus family commitment gives Coupland most cause for thought. "Usually things can be refixed at work. Somehow I'd get over it. In an extreme case, the

home commitment would have to be cancelled." Formal management skills, such as organization of time, are not taken terribly seriously. "I do have a daily list of things to do." When asked what her response would be if a subordinate started criticizing her management, she leans forward and says earnestly: "If someone is criticizing you there is genuinely a problem and it must be sorted out as soon as possible. I would listen very carefully."

Farnsworth considered her "Tough-minded, self-assured, politically adroit, with a no-nonsense approach to business relationships." Coupland felt some of the book's questions "raised issues that might be quite useful concerning the way I work with other people."

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Test Your Executive Skills is published today by Ebury Press (£7.95).

Merciful truths

How would you offer sympathy to the deeply religious parents of a friend who has died of Aids? Would you not write, in case they have decided to pretend he died of other causes, write, but make no mention of the cause of his death, or assume they know, and that it will cause them no embarrassment that you know too?

There is no convenient section of Emily Post that deals with these tricky new questions of good taste and morality. But 160 people recently were spared having to negotiate this minefield when they received an extraordinary letter from the bereaved parents themselves.

This letter, from Wayne and Sandra Schow, a deeply conservative Mormon of Pocatello, Idaho, a deeply conservative small town with a population of 50,000, most of whom belong to the Mormon Church — a religion that believes homosexuality to be a sin and Aids the punishment. They sent copies of the compassionate statement to Brad's gay friends, to members of the Mormon church and to neighbours.

The Schows' letter begins: "Dear Friends, we are writing this to let you know that Brad, our eldest son, passed away on Friday, December 5. Prior to his death he asked that there be no public announcement of the fact and that there be no funeral; we intend to honour these requests. But since you are among those who care for him and for us, we want you to know something of the circumstances of a life which ended prematurely."

"There were several physical conditions that contributed to Brad's demise, all of which are traceable to an undermined immune system. He had Aids, a fact of which he and we became aware in the summer of 1985."

The parents describe how in June 1985 Brad came home from his studies at Utah State University to help them build a new house. When he became too ill to help, he stayed with his parents — for the next year and a half. Following an appendectomy that summer, his condition worsened. Pneumocystis pneumonia crept up on him and the Aids diagnosis was confirmed.

"You could not call him lucky, but he was, at least, more fortunate than some Aids victims. He did not develop Kaposi's sarcoma, the

Facing a death in the family is never easy, particularly if it is of Aids. But one couple found that their honesty brought comfort

skin cancer that often occurs with Aids. Although he lost the sight in one eye towards the end, and experienced limited paralysis and, of course, dramatic loss of strength and weight, his mind remained alert and clear virtually to the end.

"That extra year, granted after (his) near-death in November 1985, was a gift to him as well as to us. We will not forget the conversations he had as the days and nights passed... It was a time of profound emotional and spiritual significance for all of us."

After it became impossible for the Schows to provide for their son's medical needs at home, he went back to hospital. "The end was not easy, but there were some periods of tranquility for him during the last several days. We were with him when he died. He had wished to be cremated, so we helped to prepare him and to dress him in the clothing he had chosen. At this point we stood as a family round his hospital bed and thanked God for the gift of Brad's life among us."

This letter seems to me a good example, even for unbelievers, of the truth being merciful. After reading it one feels sorry for parents who have had to concoct elaborate lies about the deaths of their children of Aids, or who have reacted to the general hysteria about the disease itself by not allowing their children to come home.

The Schows ended their letter by saying: "We are proud of our son and of the courage and integrity with which he faced the difficult circumstances of his life. In this we refer not only to his terminal illness but also to the fact of his homosexuality of which we have known for eight years. Our experience during that time has taught us that society generally and or-

ganized religions in particular have much to answer for in their treatment of homosexual men and women."

Americans tend to be more open about their deepest emotions, says David Miller, an Aids counsellor and clinical psychologist at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School, who finds it hard to imagine an English family writing such a letter. In England, he says, although it seems that few families have rejected relatives with Aids, and most have been privately supportive, very few go public because they fear that friends and colleagues will reject them if they do tell the truth.

Miller believes that this silence means they must often manage their bereavement and grief in isolation. "Sometimes they do make up an alternative diagnosis, simply so they can get some support from other people. What is so heartening about the Schows' letter is that reaction to it, whether from staunch members of the Mormon Church or from gay men in Los Angeles and San Francisco, has been uniformly positive."

One of Brad's old neighbours says: "What was so interesting about it is that Aids, to many people, is still a dirty disease; the Schows, by hiding nothing, by being so direct, have taken the implied obscenity out of it."

Wayne Schow, a professor of English at Idaho State University, said writing the letter had proved a cathartic experience for him and his wife. "We asked Brad before he died how we could show our feelings about him. He said 'If you want, have a wake for me.' But it was a bad social mix for a party: Mormon officials, gay friends from L.A., local people, some of whom are very conservative. Besides, we had been through an ordeal and we didn't feel like hosting anything."

"But we did want the world to know we were proud of him and his life, and we didn't want it swept under the carpet. When the letters came back, we realized how wonderful it is simply to be supported by people when you have been through an ordeal; so many people were fond of Brad."

Julia Orange

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Superman set-up

Superwoman is dead. And here comes Superman. Just when women have decided that, on reflection, they don't want to "have it all" — the "all" being a job, a marriage, a family and a case of terminal tiredness — men have begun to expand their horizons.

Superman now thinks he can handle a return to Victorian values and today's acceptance world: a career and a home life; executive breakfasts and the baby's 2am feed. What it means, in practice, is that he feels free to raise hell about his "right" to his unborn child, while clinging to his right to desert the said child and its mother if and when something more desirable happens along.

The new Superman invites several friends to dinner the evening before his wife has an early board meeting, because now that he can whip up the perfect salad dressing she will not be put to any trouble. Ah, yes, but she still won't be able to get the early night she needs.

Superman airs his views on pre-natal care and races a pregnant woman for the last



PENNY PERRICK

empty seat on the bus. He believes that new fathers should have three days paternity leave and, in this age of equality, it makes it hard for new mothers to ask for longer.

He claims that he would never object to working for a woman boss and has learnt how to use the Equal Opportunities Commission ruthlessly whenever he feels a woman is stealing a march on him.

Superman is super around

the home. He folds the towels neatly over the towel-rail, remembers the serving spoons and the napkins when he lays the table and irons his wife's shirts as nicely as his mother used to. So there's no excuse for his wife to be able to fix the Venetian blind, change a fuse or clean the top floor windows. Moreover, when Superman throws up his job to keep house and write a bestseller, it seems such a reasonable set-up that his wife has no option but to slog out in the rush-hour while he stays in the warm with his Amstrad and the Derek Jameson show. Far be it from Superman to put obstacles in the way of his wife's career.

Things cannot go on like this. It is really too irksome not to be able to buy a pair of tights without some Superman giving his advice as to shade and dener. Sometimes one longs for Old Hopeless to make a comeback. Even if he couldn't change a nappy or invent a recipe for rolled duck breast with pine kernel stuffing, he was smashing at opening car-doors and walking on the outside of the pavement.

internally felt to be, not as it externally appears.

From: Roger Wetenhall, Shalton Lodge, Cockermouth, Cumbria.

What would Christ have said on the subject of women being permitted to occupy positions of power and authority? (Monday Page, February 23.) From what the Gospels tell us of his contacts with women, surely there can be no doubt that he regarded them with respect and affection, no different as spiritual beings from men.

Christ himself gave no direct or precise instructions as to forms of worship or the establishment of a church. Matters of doctrine, forms of worship and the conduct of affairs were in the hands of men in the early centuries.

Now let me ask another question: why should women not be ordained as priests? On grounds of spiritual difference? Surely not. On grounds of ability to perform the rite? Surely not. On any other grounds? I can think of none. Women take on an increasing number of duties in the church and they are usually to be found in greater numbers than men in congregations of worshippers.

Job for the girls

TALKBACK

crosses the interest of researchers at York University in what he calls the "radpole" stage of children's drawings: that is, when head and body are drawn as one, despite adult reminders that head and body are separate.

May I mention work already done and a different approach to children's drawings? In the 1930s, the psychologist Melba Erg, Evelyn Gibbs (formerly of Goldsmiths' College) and I, as Gibbs' student working on a thesis about graphic development, all found abundant evidence to suggest that the child's portrayal of the human figure is not a visual matter at all, but a kinesthetic one. The child portrays the body as it is

TOMORROW

Fashion for ever: classic clothes, an important part of stylish dressing

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THE TIMES DIARY

BBC board vets its vet

John Parry, a BBC governor for Wales, could be next to leave the corporation. A Brecon vet, Parry has just resigned as president of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons following press revelations that he owed £7,000 to a supplies company. He feared the publicity was harming the college. Last month the case was handed over to a Swansea court official amid growing speculation about delays in executing a seizure order on Parry. He finally paid up — just in time to prevent the seizure of his Rover car. Now he awaits a decision from the BBC governors over his future. "Nothing has been said to me yet, so I am very loath to talk about it," he told me yesterday on return from the BBC pay-off in Stratford. I understand the governors may prove reluctant to lose another governor so soon after Lord Harewood, the Queen's cousin, resigned to concentrate on outside activities in January.

Words may rarely hurt politicians, but hockey sticks can still break bones. Happily, when Tony and Labour players take to the pitch this afternoon they will be playing on the same side — against a team of Rugby old boys.

Soul search

Another distinguished MA (Oxon) will be in Oxford for the vote for the university's next chancellor in a fortnight: the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Runcie arrives there next week to begin a three-week retreat at All Souls and is likely to be subjected to heavy lobbying from supporters of the front-runners, Lord Blake, Ted Heath and Roy Jenkins. Jenkins's supporters, however, are privately in no doubt about which candidate he favours — and it is neither of the Tory candidates.

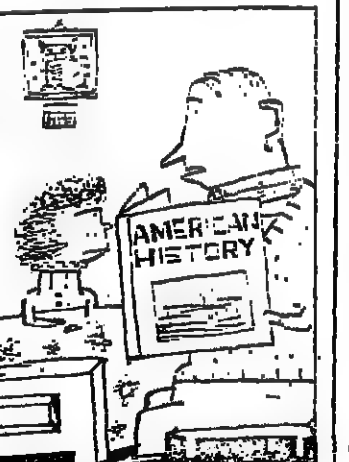
Detective story

With Sir Kenneth Newman about to have a bit more time for light reading, I had better warn him off *The Commissioner's Cowboy*, due out this month from Graeco Books. Roderick Miller's novel of graft, racism, corruption and perjury in the Metropolitan Police would hardly be ideal bedtime reading for its commissioner. Newman might, however, be comforted to learn that the author's own record is not without blemish. Five years ago Miller was "required to resign" from the force after being found guilty of two disciplinary offences. Miller, whose book suggests that the Met is guilty of everything from drug organization to robbery, tells me he did not write it in a spirit of revenge and that he has "fond memories" of his time in the force. Carry on, constable.

More red faces

Not only Essex Tories could end up being embarrassed by Harvey Proctor, the MP for Billericay. The Fulham Conservative Association has the bad luck to have its offices directly beneath Proctor's flat in Fulham High Street, the scene of recent scantily-clad appearances by his acquaintance Terry Wood, the art dealer. Indeed, I discover the association and Proctor share the same landlord: the Western Heritable Investment Company, which also owns the offices of the Anti-Common Market League next door. Its managing director was Sir Ian Macgregor, a lifelong Tory who died last month.

BARRY FANTONI



"And when asked who chopped down the cherry tree, Ronald Reagan said, 'I can't remember'."

Asking for it

Norman Tebbit's crack Central Office team picked the wrong week to send a personalized begging letter to Paul Tyler, chief executive of Good Relations, the lobbyist. "How can we stop Labour's name," they wrote above Tebbit's name, suggesting the odd fiver in Tyler's coffers might be a start. Tyler has taken great pleasure in replying: "You cannot. The Alliance, equally clearly, can and is winning votes and seats from Labour." Tyler is David Steel's campaign adviser.

Gang of four

Stand by for more fury from the Tory Central Office, still smarting from the Greenwich result. EDC Television has contrived not merely to devote the whole of *Panorama* to David Owen and David Steel tonight, but has also arranged for their wives Debbie and Judy to appear on *Woman and Judy*. Stand-in presenter, Bruce Forsyth, stand-in presenter, need hardly bother asking "Didn't they do well?"

PHS

Why I have joined the Tories

John Horam, an SDP founder-member, now says Mrs Thatcher is the mould-breaker

I have not the slightest doubt that those who left the Labour Party to start the SDP were right. I am also sure that none of them have any real regrets.

But that decision was not meant to be only negative — against the Labour Party — but positive, to chart a new third course. And that meant some hard and courageous thinking about Britain's needs and the right policies to meet those needs in the 1980s and 1990s.

My view is that the Alliance has failed in this task, and is now slipping back towards the consensus policies of the 1960s and 1970s. Behind the rhetoric, these policies are a succession of fudged compromises based on an out-of-date analysis which dodges most of the hard choices.

For the economy, the Alliance proposes not merely reflation, but higher public spending buttressed by a tax-based incomes policy. Indeed, many of its economists argue that the situation today is exactly analogous to the 1930s, so what we need is simply more demand, with an incomes policy to take care of the inflationary consequences.

The commitment to increasing public expenditure springs not just

from a commendable (if mistaken) view that this is the right way to tackle unemployment, but from a host of spending plans which are in the programme simply because they are deemed "good". This approach is still the same old one, so typical of the Labour Party: that if there is a problem, a government programme must be devised to deal with it.

The Alliance has said that if the Conservatives cut taxes it will not reimpose them, but this seems to be a case of having your cake and eating it. This attitude is irresponsible. For the reality is that revenue from North Sea oil is declining, and we face not only continuing competition from the established countries, but also more ruthless competition from the developing world. We face that competition with some real cultural problems over our approach to trade and industry, as well as a seriously unbalanced economy. The attitudes and vested interests associated with a

large public sector only deepen our anti-enterprise culture.

In these circumstances the right approach seems to be a measured programme of privatization and tax cuts. This will enable the government to reduce the size of the public sector, with all the increase in efficiency that brings, and to lower taxes for all. This in turn will increase enterprise, boost the economy, and increase the number of jobs available.

If we add to this deregulation, for example, in the further measures for trade unions which the government proposes (which the Alliance, to be fair, supports), then we have a coherent programme for the sort of economy which is now emerging: high-tech, high-design, more service-oriented and faster-moving. This way also lies a freer society where people have more control over their lives — and which can deal properly with poverty and real disadvantage.

I do not underestimate the difficulties of this way forward. It is extremely hard to control public

expenditure, especially as the majority of the public still supports the beguiling idea that somehow just a little bit more public spending would put everything right.

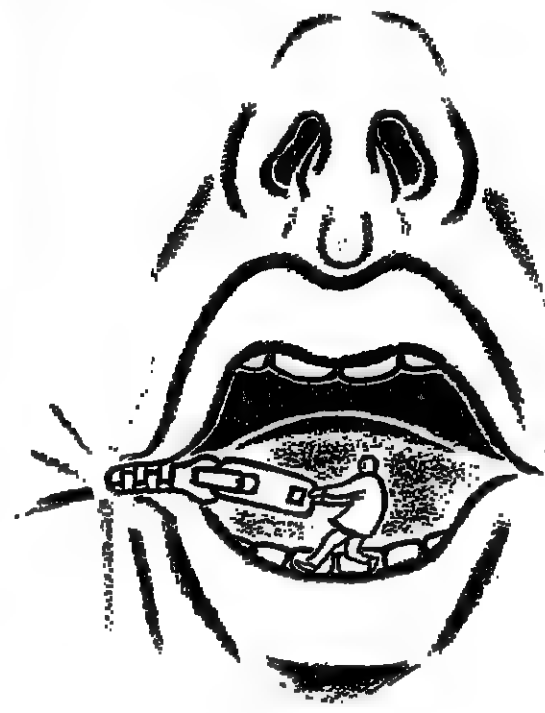
The great achievement of Mrs Thatcher has been to open all this up for public debate and to make positive strides, against entrenched interests, along a new and hopeful path. She is the true radical of British politics and the true mould-breaker.

I had hoped that the Alliance would follow down this path, but with a different emphasis and perhaps different priorities, in a way which would give British politics a real alternative. I now see that this has not happened, will not happen and probably cannot happen, given the logic of politics which inevitably means that what the government of today proposes, the opposition parties oppose.

The Alliance will take on the Neanderthals of the Labour Party and in due course probably win. But my place is in the Conservative Party, in support of Mrs Thatcher, because she is forging the only way forward which offers any real chance for this country.

Bernard Levin: The way we live now

Paula Young



Merry tale of 68 censors in a muddle

predictions of the polls rather than on the policies of the politicians.

Thus speaks the Lord Protector, protecting the voters from exercising the franchise for reasons which he rules impermissible. Some, sniffing the wind blown by the polls, are having the gall "to produce the most desired or least objectionable outcome"; others, even more despicable, are voting "for a party, the policies of which are not liked, just to keep out another party that is liked even less"; and in the lowest electoral swamp of all lurk those creatures — they hardly deserve to be called voters at all — who do not vote wholly, necessarily and exclusively "on the policies of the politicians".

I do see his point, of course. In the famous Bermondsey by-election, the Labour Party claimed that their canvass showed that Peter Tatchell would win with a majority of some 11,000 votes. At the count, two days later, he received fewer than 8,000 votes altogether, never mind a majority of 11,000, and found himself 9,000 votes behind the Liberal winner; indeed, he was lucky not to be pipped by Screaming Lord Sutch. Without the polls, such lying would have had a clear field in the matter of influencing voters; with the polls it had real competition. Ergo, abolish the competition.

In Bulgaria, no doubt, such a proposition would go through on the nod; but the Lord Protector has got to learn that in a democ-

cracy the voters not only do, but must at all times be permitted to, make up their minds in any way they think proper, not excluding the use of a Ouija-board, a bent pin, or a settled conviction that they are voting to decide once and for all the question of whether Miss Samantha Fox has bigger ones than Miss Suzanne Mizzi, not opinion polls but elections?

But I promised you merriment, and it is time for me to deliver. The Campaign for Freedom of Information, which — quaint old-fashioned thing — actually does believe in freedom of information, invited all MPs to sign the pledge, in the form of a statement, that they "broadly support the campaign for measures to secure for all citizens access to information that they have a right and a need to know, and measures to encourage greater disclosure of such information". The organization rolled up an impressive score; the number of MPs thus committed must be well over 200 by now.

And 68 of them voted in favour of suppressing opinion polls and the publication of their findings. Among those who, while proclaiming their fealty to the expansion of the citizens' right of access to information, demanded that that right should be further restricted, were the Lord Protector and all 11 of his parliamentary team ("bill ordered to be brought in by..."). The 12 are Labour members, as are all but two of the rest, Janet Fooks (Conservative) and Gerald Howells (Liberal), though the latter may have wandered into the wrong lobby by

mistake — a practice that Alliance members are much given to. I think it is only fair — and much more fun — for me to print the whole list. Here it is:

Gordon Bagier, Tony Banks, Sydney Bidwell, Betty Boothroyd, Richard Crampton, James Callaghan (not the former prime minister), Lewis Carter-Jones, Robert Clay, Harry Cohen, Francis Cook, Jeremy Corbyn, Jim Craggs, Lawrence Cusack, Terry Davis, Gwyneth Dunwoody, Alexander Eadie, Kenneth Eastham, Andrew Faulds, Terry Fields, Mark Fisher, Martin Flannery, Janet Fooks, George Foulkes, Ted Garred, Norman Goodman, James Hamilton, Peter Hardy, Geraint Howells, Doug Hoyle, Roy Hughes, David Lambie, James Landon, Ted Leadbitter, Anthony Lloyd, Geoffrey Loftus, David Marshall, Roy Mason, John Maxton, Joan Maynard, Hugh McCartney, Allen McKay, John McWilliam, William Michie, Ian Munn, Fred Munn, George Park, Terry Pritchett, Laurie Povit, Tom Pender, Peter Pike, Raymond Powell, Giles Radice, Stuart Randall, Martin Redmond, Jo Richardson, Ernie Roberts, George Ross, Barry Sheerman, Robert Sheldon, Chris Smith, John Thompson, Stan Thorne, Thomas Torney, Gareth Wardell, Kenneth Weetich, David Winnick, David Young.

There were some notable names among the Noes. Anthony Wedgwood Benn, to his credit (and his consistency) was against the bill; so was his Sedgemoor, though his Heffer did not vote (last time this measure was proposed he was one of its most fervent supporters);

Dele Campbell-Savours, a courage of government general, stood firm against his colleagues' demands for more of it; all these had signed the campaign's vow, and clearly took it seriously.

Sixty-eight didn't. For them, it seems, freedom of information means freedom for information they find pleasing and the suppression of information they don't like the look of. So having committed themselves to more information, they voted for less, having promised to work for the enlargement of the citizens' rights, they advocated the curtailment thereof; having put their hands to a democratic document without the force of law, they put their feet to a measure of thought-control that would entail fines or imprisonment for those eliciting or publishing thoughts not on the permitted list.

I have defended the privilege of all voters to make up their electoral minds for themselves, whether they do so on the gravest and most deeply considered grounds or the most frivolous and trivial ones. Let me now urge the constituents of all the 68 censors to vote against them for the best of all reasons: because they speak freedom and act restriction, preach openness and shut doors, sign for rights and work for wrongs. Incidentally, if Raymond Powell, who introduced the bill, and his fellow suppressors are worried that the opinion polls may help to bring about an unapproved result in an election, wouldn't it be dangerous to let them do so, and completely averted by abolishing not opinion polls but elections?

Brian James

T. E. Utley

The drift towards a secular church

"The Church which is married to the Spirit of the Age will be a widow in the next." So said Dean Inge, in words which have been firmly implanted in my mind since I first read them and which have been evoked again by a collection of essays on the secularization of the Church to be published this week. It is called *After The Deluge*, published by the SPCK and edited by William Oddie, one of the few rising stars in the Anglican intellectual firmament.

Its thesis, crudely summarized, is that the western churches are rapidly abandoning their interest both in biblical theology and in the universal Christian tradition. Instead they have swallowed, more or less hook, line and sinker, secularized and humanistic concepts. Their thought on matters of theology and ethics starts not from an earnest attempt to discern the will of God for His Creation, but from an attempt to calculate where lies the benefit of mankind interpreted in terms of human happiness. This is, however, a book not to be summarized but to be read.

There is, surely, no time at which it could have appeared more appositely. We had last week the cause célèbre of the Oxford undergraduate who wanted his child to be born. That has produced yards of inconclusive and, with rare exceptions, intellectually inept argument. Why does the debate appear to be so sterile? Largely because it does not proceed from any agreed premise. Talking to many of one's dearly loved friends and colleagues about it is a painful and fruitless exercise.

There is an unbridgeable divide between those who believe that the act of human procreation is part of God's purpose for mankind and those who think that it is a mostly convenient device, to be interrupted when it seems likely to prove inconvenient. Not that the acceptance of traditional Christian premises will relieve us of all the dilemmas presented by this subject. Christian theology cannot precisely determine the point at which an embryo acquires a soul, or relieve us of the difficulty of determining what should be done when childbirth would gravely endanger the life of a mother, or when she has become pregnant as a result of physical coercion. On those issues Christians will differ; but in debating them they will at least be talking the same language.

It will not be the language of their humanist friends. They will adopt the hedonistic calculus, trying to establish whether it is a good thing for a child to be born to a mother who does not want it, or a socially desirable thing that an unwanted child should run the risk of becoming dependent on the welfare state. These speculations are as barren and unproductive as any in which the theologians engage. Yet they are advanced as

though, by this means, the argument had been raised to a level of scientific integrity and rationality. The issue really depends on where the argument begins. Christians can talk about it to each other; humanists can discuss it with each other; but the profit from conversation across the battle-lines is minimal.

So it is with woman priests. I do not deny that a serious theological debate has taken place on that subject. In so far as that debate is conducted in terms of theology, that is to say of the purposes of God as revealed to mankind, I have no doubt myself that it is overwhelmingly biased in favour of the traditional position. After all, since Jesus conspicuously appointed no woman apostles and Himself consented to be born as a man, the dice are pretty heavily loaded from the start. Translate the argument into secular terms — if Mrs Thatcher, why not woman priests? — the discussion becomes different. It is in this second way that most laymen now approach the matter, and it is largely in deference to that fashion that the Church is proceeding with such alacrity in its present direction.

A further example of secularization, dredged up from my recent memory, an eminent South African churchman (whose name and colour I will not mention, since I have not the precise text of his words before me), recently said that if Jesus were to come to South Africa He would undoubtedly be arrested by President Botha. Can you think of anything more improbable?

When Jesus came to Palestine, He was expected to be the leader of a movement of national liberation. Instead He announced that His kingdom was not of this world, cured a centurion's son (equivalent of a South African policeman's servant) of a mortal disease, and replied to a question about the propriety of paying taxes to the imperial power with calculated Foreign Office ambiguity, and refused to arbitrate in the matter of inheritance on the ground that He was not in the least concerned with distributive justice.

President Botha would regard Him as, in the idiomatic sense, an "absolute godsend" and, I think, would do his best to make Him a bishop. Jesus, of course, would refuse.

So my sad conclusion is this: I shall have to become a ghetto Christian. This is a tragic thing for a man who is not only by intellectual conviction but to the marrow of his being, an Anglican, one who loathes the idea of belonging to a sect which separates itself from English life and closes its mind to the changing fashions of English culture. If the Bishop of London leads us out of the Church of England into some United church in communion with Rome I hope that I shall find the courage to follow him.

George Robertson

A unique chance for Europe

The most obvious casualty of the frigate fiasco, especially after the devastation of the Tower Commission findings, is the leadership of the Western Alliance. But that calamity may yet provide Europe's opportunity to grab the initiative — an initiative which is urgently required.

There is little doubt that we are at a watershed in east-west relations, with rare and perhaps unrepeatable opportunities open to us: witness the new Soviet offer on Euro-missiles made only this weekend by Mr Gorbachev. The door is open for a genuine, independent, clear-sighted European view and voice. The question before us is whether European leaders, and in particular Mrs Thatcher, have the guts or the nerve to grasp this unique chance.

These last few weeks have made bizarre reading for followers of US-European relations. A vicious trade war between the US and Europe has been temporarily averted but not before a bitter exchange of rhetoric and threats. Richard Perle, the US assistant defence secretary, and the respected arms adviser Paul Nitze have perambulated around western capitals canvassing opinion on the premature deployment of Star Wars and proclaiming the importance of their allies' views.

But back home Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, and George Shultz, Secretary of State, made it clear that the decision — and it is a momentous one — will be taken in the US domestic dogfight with or without the allies' co-operation.

Perle, at least for the moment a trusted Washington insider, recently accused Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, of "mealy-mouthed evasion". With only casual regard for the consequences, Perle is using Europe to play the White House power game — and his friends are left looking sick. Meanwhile noises from the Kremlin to Europe and to Downing Street in particular sound increasingly sweet and reasonable.

There is now to be a replacement of the confused leadership of the US by no leadership at all. At best: there will be a shambles of recrimination, resignation and

playing for the gap in policy; at worst decision-making will be paralysed for two years. The presidential referee is crippled and with his abdication there is no guidance.

Well before the scandal started to burn, the European allies saw a real chance for a breakthrough. In the last two weeks, the West German chancellor, Helmut Kohl, and his foreign minister, Hans Dietrich Genscher, who are no mealy-mouthed back-sliders, have made it clear that Gorbachev is worth taking at face value. Egon Bahr, the defeated SPD's right-wing arms-control expert, put it concisely: "Let's test Gorbachev, not missiles."

Even Mrs Thatcher hesitates before abandoning the anti-ballistic-missile treaty to "broad interpretation" vandalism, and sees the prospect of deals on chemical weapons and on troop reductions as helping her election image after her Moscow visit later this month.

The Nato allies see a rare chance beckoning, and the tempting de-escalation as an actual prospect. They will want to grab the chance of doing some deals when the prospects are bright and will resent any postponement to 1988.

Too often in the past the hardliners in the American administration have defeated European common sense, and opportunities to curb the global battle of ideologies have been lost. It would be unforgivable if the opportunity to build on the disarmament possibilities of Reykjavik were to be lost because the termites in the White House basement sabotaged this as well.

It is of course a considerable tragedy for the West that the US is brought so low by the kind of incompetence and illegality which the impeccable Senator Tower uncovered, and we should seek no pleasure from it. But here in Europe, surrounded by the missiles and amid the tension, we cannot afford to sit back and wait for the return to normality in Washington. Nor dare we ignore the openings that the new, radical Soviet leadership presents us with.

George Robertson (Labour; Hamilton) is deputy opposition spokesman on foreign affairs.

Ex-Nazis in fear of the knock on the door

The hunt is on, and hotting up. Almost daily, Soviet embassy sources leak another name from a list of 34 men said to be guilty of war crimes who they claim still find sanctuary in Britain. Today, too, House of Commons privilege may be employed to name six men on another list of declared Nazis compiled from files recently disclosed in the USA.

All this comes hard upon a BBC television documentary and a book, *The Paperclip Conspiracy*, which alleged that Britain had competed with the USA to employ German wartime scientists for their knowledge of atomic weapons and rocketry, ignoring any taint of Nazism in their past.

The excited clamour of the pack in full cry tends suddenly to seem uncomfortable when heard in the company of two old people who sit holding each other's trembling hands for comfort and beg that someone will listen to what they have to say.

Hermann Treutler, aged 76, was named and quoted in the book by Tom Bower as one of the scientists recruited by Britain in 1946. He became a target last week when a

newspaper talked of the "secret" arrival in Britain of a "former Brown Shirt" now living just outside Norwich.

Mr Treutler lives in Barnham Broom, near Norwich, with his 74-year-old wife Brigitte. Within hours of that article appearing, the reporters from a tabloid newspaper were at his door.

Far from arriving in secret, Hermann Treutler said, he and his 11 companions had been met on the railway station by about 15 reporters. A photograph of the event can be found on the front page of an old *News Chronicle*.

Had he been a Brown Shirt — a member of the *Sturmabteilung*, the street-fighting militia of the early Nazi party?

"I was an orphan. To get into university, to get a grant, you had to obey the system in the 1930s. It was not until I was asked questions when I was invited to become a British citizen in 1953 that I was reminded I had been enrolled. But I never attended a meeting. Never paid subscriptions. And I never had a uniform. In my life."

What of membership of the

Nazi party? Mr Treutler explained that after his degree he was sent to work on rocket propellants. It was sensitive work. Being a party member was a necessary qualification. "It was my accreditation. It said I was reliable." These were, of course, the expected answers from men in his position. Yet was there real evidence that he had more to conceal? Not in Bower's book.

That had described weapon scientists walking headlessly past starving and tortured slave workers on their way to test-benches in the V2 factory at Nordhausen. What had Mr Treutler known of that? "I was working mostly at a remote old mill in Silesia. My eyes could not see what happened in the Hartz mountains 300 miles away. There was no contact."

It was defeat in 1945 that exposed him to the "fillicy" of the Nazi theories. "Then, when all was lost, we could see how wrong it was. There are no skeletons in the cupboard for me. It is not the past of which I am so afraid, but what is happening now... this witch-hunt."

Brigitte Treutler said: "For the first three years I came here after

my husband, we were isolated. Only three people would speak to us — the milkman, the schoolmaster where they took our children, and the warden of our church. Those were bad years. Now we are so afraid they will come back. If this smear campaign continues, who will be next to knock on our door? Our neighbours in the village are kind, but who knows after that?" She gestured to a newspaper article referring to her husband being decorated with the swastika.

The search for war criminals will persist. The world could do so little to save the victims of atrocity, it is seen as a necessary reparation to ensure that the guilty who survive shall never have another night of sleep that is not troubled by fear of pursuit and trial.

But many will feel that it becomes too close to the Nazis' own hideous ethics if the search is permitted to widen into a hunt for those who, like the Treutlers, probably have on their conscience no worse than a memory of simply not wanting to know.

مكتبة الامم المتحدة



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RETURN TO ZERO

The warm welcome that Mr Gorbachov's latest statement on arms control has received in capitals as far apart as Washington and Warsaw attests to the universality of its appeal. This should not be allowed to detract from its significance.

The Soviet decision to seek a separate East-West agreement on medium-range missiles in Europe marks a sharp turn in Soviet policy. For the past two years Moscow has insisted, sometimes directly, sometimes in more oblique terms, that the three elements of the Geneva arms talks — strategic-range nuclear missiles, medium-range nuclear missiles and weapons in space — are inter-linked: that agreement in one area depends on agreement in another.

This link was a condition of the Soviet side returning to arms control talks in Geneva in the spring of 1985. Then, it was a face-saving formulation which allowed Moscow to claim that the talks to which it was returning were quite different from those it had abandoned more than 18 months before. By October 1986 the same link had been elevated to the essence of an arms control agreement and had caused the Reykjavik summit to fail.

The fact that the Soviet leadership has fundamentally changed its policy on SDI should give the West some cause for satisfaction. It is a vindication of the strong and consistent negotiating position adopted by the Western alliance, both the American and European halves of it, and suggests that the West may at last have found a key to negotiating with the Soviet Union.

But the West is also dealing with a new type of Soviet leader, a leader who has demonstrated greater flexibility in diplomacy and foreign policy generally. He is not a leader disposed to demonstrate weakness. The reasons for the apparent Soviet change of heart on SDI need therefore to be assessed with particular care. May it be new tactics rather than changed ambitions?

At Reykjavik the Soviet leadership offered its highest price possible (the scrapping of all medium-range missiles in Europe) for the United States

to abandon SDI, and still the Americans would not bite. If they had bitten, however, the Soviet side would still have come out some way ahead of the Americans.

Five years after President Reagan — with no medium-range missiles of his own in Western Europe at that time — had proposed the "zero option", the Soviet side was offering it back. And, even though the price to the Americans was considerably higher than it had been originally, they were on the point of accepting. Only the condition relating to SDI stopped them.

Now, in effect, the Soviet leadership has turned the clock back five years. It has recognized that progress in one area of arms control is better than no progress at all. But it may also have calculated that the chances of the United States being able to devise or operate a full strategic defence system in the immediate future, for all the talk of early deployment, are slim. Such a calculation would make the "zero option" all the more acceptable to the Soviet side.

It should not, however, make it necessarily acceptable to the West. Five years ago Western Europe spurned all Soviet blandishments and agreed to the deployment of cruise and Pershing missiles on their soil. Now, the protection afforded by the new missiles, and the political assurance they give of US commitment to the defence of Europe mean that they should be jettisoned only with the firmest Soviet guarantees.

Any talk of a "zero option" also raises the question of Soviet short-range missiles, which are at present the subject of no East-West arms negotiations. Such weapons would, in the absence of medium-range missiles on either side, assume added importance. No "zero option" could be accepted by Europe, until the imbalance in these missiles had been rectified — either by a short-range "zero option" or by the West Europeans' acquisition of an equivalent force.

Either solution would mean that the West Europeans could (on one issue, at least) be negotiating with the Soviet Union as a unit, rather than as

half of the Western alliance. This diminution of strength would not only be of value to the Soviet side, it could also further the de-coupling of Europe from the United States in defence matters — which has been at the heart of Soviet foreign policy since the war.

Whatever the ultimate motive for Mr Gorbachov's latest policy initiative, its timing was masterly. It put the onus on the West to respond at the end of a week in which the Tower Commission raised questions about President Reagan's competence to direct US foreign policy, 10 days after Mr Gorbachov's triumphant anti-nuclear forum, and one month before Mrs Thatcher's visit to Moscow — a visit in which much hope has been invested, both in Europe and in the United States.

The problem for the Western alliance is twofold. It has to face the fact that the United States has previously agreed to the package that Mr Gorbachov is now offering. To reject it, however unsatisfactory it is recognized to be in Western European capitals, would be evidence of indecision in Washington.

It also has to face the implications of the time condition attached to the Soviet offer. The medium range missiles are to be reduced to "zero" within five years. This is well before SDI will be able to afford any protection to Europe. This means that the West may be inclined to set the very same condition that the Soviet Union set before: to link progress on reducing medium-range missiles in Europe to progress on the SDI. This poses some tough diplomatic questions. The extended talks in Geneva this week and Mrs Thatcher's coming visit to Moscow may bring some of the answers.

If the Soviet side is genuinely interested in negotiating a significant, but carefully controlled and monitored reduction in medium-range missiles in Europe, then Mr Gorbachov's initiative contains the seeds of an agreement, and one the West can realistically countenance. If, on the other hand, it is an all-or-nothing, now-or-never offer, we are back in the realm of propaganda and unilateral advantage.

VARIETIES OF POWER

The background to Britain's electricity supply policy has been transformed in the past seven years. All the more pity, then, that the foreground has grown so fixed.

When Mrs Thatcher first settled into office, the electricity costs of industry and the lights in people's homes seemed to be at the mercy of unpredictable, unfriendly monopolies — Opec and the National Union of Mineworkers. Fossil fuel prices appeared to be out of control and indefinitely rising.

Across the Channel, France showed a way to escape this stranglehold — by switching the bulk of electricity generation to the proven nuclear technology of pressurized water reactors. This seemed to promise security of supplies at competitive cost.

For Britain, the series production of standard units offered economies in construction that would help build a valuable nuclear export industry. It was also felt that the poor experience with home grown second-generation advanced gas cooled reactors had held back nuclear expansion almost as much as the miners' political power. The Cabinet decided to follow the French example, though at a more modest pace.

Lord Marshall, appointed for the purpose as chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board, has the zeal of a mid-life convert to the cause of the PWR and has pursued it with vigour. By now the first PWR at Sizewell might have been well on the way, had it not been for the four year delay brought by Sir Frank Layfield's inquiry.

By the time Parliament came to debate the Layfield report last week, however, the picture looked very different. With Opec overreaching itself, fossil fuel prices have tumbled for the moment and are no longer on an endless upward spiral. The worldwide export demand for nuclear power stations has collapsed at the time when Germany and Japan have formidably added to competition.

Chernobyl has changed the public perception of nuclear power. It could no longer be seen as economically secure. New emphasis was placed on the safety of different nuclear systems; gas-cooled technology has some intrinsic advantages here.

The most significant economic change, however, has come through the defeat of the NUM strike and the subsequent reform of what is now British Coal. As a result, Britain's coal supplies are more secure and have regained the potential to be fully competitive.

Some things, however, have not changed. Trends in relative costs, though recently favouring fossil fuels, remain wholly unpredictable over the time scale of electricity planning. The need to diversify supplies remains as strong as ever.

It would, therefore, be foolish to throw away the nuclear insurance policy by failing to replace the contribution to power supplies of the ageing first generation Magnox stations, which proved so crucial during the miners' strike. Nor is there likely to be a great increase in safety risks by gradually replacing Magnox stations with larger new types on the same sites, such as Sizewell. It would do no harm if the higher capacities of second generation nuclear stations added slightly to the share of nuclear power in total electricity output. That would justify the reduced CEB plan for a small family of new nuclear stations.

There is, however, no strong case for building nuclear stations on greenfield sites in order to raise nuclear capacity even to the German proportion of around a third — on which the case for a switch to the PWR essentially depends. This would hit the demand for coal disproportionately since nuclear stations are run flat out once the heavy construction costs have been incurred.

It would be far better to take advantage of the reform of the coal industry to diversify supplies more economically in other ways. Unfortunately, the

Government, having won the confrontation with the miners, has lost the appetite for such reform.

It has adopted a cautious approach which was shared by the Commons Energy Committee's report on the coal industry last week. The committee points out the abuse of monopoly powers by British Coal and the CEB to discourage the growth of private supplies of coal and electricity for the national grid. It suggests two important long-term reforms: moving BC's ownership of reserves and licensing powers to the Department and removing the size limit on private mines.

It balks, however, at breaking up British Coal's artificial monopoly, chiefly on the ground that BC faces the monopoly buying power of the CEB. If that is not done, however, it would be logical to expect the union monopoly to reassert itself in the long run at the other end of this unholy chain. It would be better to proceed by reducing the power of the CEB.

Whitehall should certainly look more actively at the arguments for selling combinations of coal power stations and associated mines. It should introduce more competition (and more employee ownership) into coal supply. It should further diversify its supply by encouraging long-term contracts for coal imports.

As it is, the CEB's singleminded drive for the PWR has probably delayed the sensible ordering of new coal fired capacity. It has also led to a lack of drive in developing new coal-burning technologies which reduce noxious emissions more efficiently than the add-on processes which the CEB grudgingly conceded last year.

Sizewell has made the PWR a single big issue. Nuclear power is here to stay. But the government should now be pursuing a more subtle policy towards the rest of what should be a much more diverse power producing industry.

Tax incentive to further R & D

From Professor Colin Humphreys
Sir, The forthcoming Budget represents an ideal opportunity for the Government to begin the process of narrowing the gap between the civil R & D funding of the UK and of our major international competitors.

As *The Times* has cogently argued in recent articles and editorials, the rate of change of science and technology today is so rapid that we shall never catch our competitors unless urgent action is taken now. The grim alternative is an inevitable decline to a third world economy.

Two Budget measures are required. First UK Government support for civil R & D (£3,745million in 1983) needs to be increased to match that of, say, the West German Government's £7,275million in 1983 (figures from *Annual Review of Government-funded R & D*, 1985, HMSO). An increase of £500million this Budget would be a first step towards closing the gap.

Second, the Budget should introduce greater tax incentives for industry to support research. For example, industry in the USA receives a 100 per cent tax credit for much of its research spending, and the Australian Government has recently introduced a 150 per cent tax incentive for industrial funding of research.

Similar tax measures and increased Government support for R & D would make our industry much more innovative, would strengthen industry-university links, and should revitalize our economy. If our forthcoming Budget invests in science and technology it will be seen as the first Budget in many years which has truly invested for the future.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN HUMPHREYS,
The University of Liverpool,
Department of Materials Science and Engineering,
PO Box 147, Liverpool,
February 23.

From Mr W. T. Hutton
Sir, Surprised, your long and interesting letter on research and prosperity (February 19) did not make one reference to defence.

The post-war economic prosperity of Germany and Japan was firmly based on scientific training methods developed to meet the needs of previous military expansion. Surely, at a lower peacetime tempo of defence activity, we cannot surrender technological advance to others so that we constantly lose out on subsequent development and production. Down this road, we end with no skills in the market place. Yours sincerely,
W. T. HUTTON,
8 Sutherland Avenue,
Peters Wood,
Orpington, Kent.

Oxford post

From the Secretary of Faculties,
Oxford University
Sir, Oxford University is indeed extremely concerned about its inability to fill vital academic posts because of a shortage of money. None the less, the statements made in your leader of February 19 exaggerate our difficulties.

The chair of inorganic chemistry has been vacant for about six months, not two years. The position in physics is more complicated. The holder of a chair has been seconded to the Science and Engineering Research Council as its chairman. With his consent, we wish to make an additional professional appointment and are anxiously considering the timing.

It is certainly not correct to say that the delay in making the appointment will be "at least" two years; at present it is impossible to predict what the length of the period in question will be but great efforts are being made to keep it shorter than two years. Yours faithfully,
A. P. WEALE,
Secretary of Faculties,
University of Oxford,
University Offices,
Wellington Square, Oxford,
February 20.

Getty antiquities

From Dr Dietrich von Bothmer
Sir, Geraldine Norman and Thomas Hoving report (February 13), in connection with a donation of Attic red-figures fragments by the Kleophrades Painter to the J. Paul Getty Museum, that having been consulted by the Internal Revenue Service I "pointed out that the Greek vase by the Kleophrades Painter donated by McLendon at \$100,000 had been for sale in Switzerland at \$35,000 a matter of weeks before."

I should like to set the record straight. The fragments of a red-figured volute krater (not a vase) by the Kleophrades Painter, given by Gordon McLendon to the J. Paul Getty Museum in 1977, were first seen by me in the European market on October 25, 1971. Subsequently they were acquired by a dealer in Geneva, who showed them to Professor A. Greifenhagen, then Director of the Antiquities Museum in West Berlin, later that year.

Greifenhagen read a paper on their significance at the Heidelberg Academy, on June 10, 1972, and when I saw the fragments again, this time in Geneva (on June 29, 1972), I was quoted the price of \$35,000. It was a few years later (not a few weeks), as your paper puts it, that the fragments came to the J. Paul Getty Museum as a gift in 1977.

Time, chance and the unborn child

From Sir Harry Pitt, FRS
Sir, I am glad that you recognise, in your editorial of February 25, that it would be incautious to think that we have heard the last of C.V.S.

It is impossible for a layman to appreciate fully the points of law which moved Mrs Justice Heilbron and the judges of the appeal court to their conclusions, but they made it clear that a central question, in their view, was whether a fetus of 18 to 21 weeks was "capable of being born alive" within the meaning of the Infant Life (Preservation) Act of 1929.

It may now be impossible to judge precisely what Parliament in 1929 meant by the words in quotation, but one quite sensible interpretation would be that the vast majority of such fetuses would be quite capable of being born alive, given a little more time and a fair chance.

The judges, however, appear to have put a different interpretation on the words of the 1929 Act and reached the not very surprising conclusion that such a fetus was unlikely to be capable of being born alive after an untimely and violent separation from its mother (if that is the right word?).

It seems that this is sufficient to render the Act inapplicable and to justify the abortion of the fetus, on the premise that this is a normal and acceptable procedure in any civilised society and in accordance with the law as it now stands.

The logic of the whole argument is, of course, grotesque — rather like saying that it is perfectly alright to cut a man's throat on the ground that he would be unlikely to live afterwards anyway. Surely it is right to question again the validity of an argument premise that leads to such absurdity?

Yours faithfully,
HARRY PITT,
46 Shindford Road,
Reading, Berkshire,
February 25.

From Dr Philip R. Norris
Sir, In your Law Report (February 24) headed "Fetus cannot bring case against mother" it was reported that Mrs Justice Heilbron found "unrealistic" the view expressed by me. I would like to point out that I merely stated that a fetus of 18 weeks, if delivered by hysterotomy, would comply with the World Health Organisation's definition of a live birth, namely:

Live birth is the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception irrespective of the duration of the pregnancy.

Public sector at risk

From Professor Conrad Russell
Sir, In your today's edition (February 19) Mr George Walden, Mr Ronald Butts and you yourself argue that the current difficulties in universities necessitate a need for reforms as much as they do a shortage of money. You make a formidable trinity, but you are no doubt aware that your assertions are controversial.

It is relevant to ask what is happening in other parts of the public sector, to whose performance the Government is unlikely to feel any intellectual hostility. In recent months, you have carried reports of severe damage

resulting from shortage of money in the Inland Revenue, the prison service, the Crown Prosecution Service, the legal aid scheme, and the East Anglian coastal defences. It is improbable that Mr Butts' picture of a service penetrated by left-wing dogma applies to all these also.

These examples suggest that, contrary to what many of my colleagues suppose, this Government is not motivated by a principled hostility to scholarship, but rather that it is ideologically unfitted to be entrusted with the safety of the public sector. Yours faithfully,
CONRAD RUSSELL,
43 Stratford Road, NW6.

have "substantial research income, consultancy [and] co-operative projects with industrial and public sector institutions".

There can be little doubt that the political principles of Thatcherism are being realised in the distribution of the cuts inside individual universities.

The narrowness of vision created when education is made synonymous with training sees value in music, art and philosophy only if they can be packaged and a profit made. Universities should serve as a source of dissenting opinion against the current climate of vulgar free market materialism. Yours etc,
S. POLETTI (President, University Post-graduate Sub-Council),
R. LAURENCE (President, University Post-graduate Society),
ZIA MILAN,
University of Newcastle upon Tyne,
School of Physics,
Newcastle upon Tyne.

ambition of Dr Jiri Frel, the Getty Museum's former curator of antiquities, was to form a large collection of minor items, while "the museum trustees were interested mainly in major acquisitions." This does not, however, do justice either to the trustees or to the curator.

Dr Frel, like other curators in his field, has acquired for his museum both major and minor objects, an arduous task at a time when older museums had already established well rounded collections that give full representations of the arts and civilisations of the past. So-called "masterpieces" are often only recognized as such when shown next to and in connection with less exceptional works. Mountain tops would lose all their majesty if cut off and displayed on level ground.

In spite of the criticism expressed in this article, I wish to confirm my strong conviction that the antiquities department of the J. Paul Getty Museum has every reason to be proud of its accomplishments, achieved in record time largely thanks to a gifted, knowledgeable and passionate curator. Yours sincerely,
DIETRICH VON BOTHMER,
Chairman, Department of Greek and Roman Art,
The Metropolitan Museum of Art,
Fifth Avenue at 82nd Street,
New York, NY 10028, USA,
February 17.

Thus the Getty has today a very important vase by the Kleophrades Painter, his only volute krater that is reasonably complete. Its upper zone gives the Heracleid Amazonomachy; the lower zone is divided between other deeds by Herakles and the story of Peleus and Thetis — all told well over 40 figures.

The IRS expert did not reveal to me the valuation claimed as a deduction by the donor but I gathered that, on becoming acquainted with the unique importance of the fragments, he did not regard the claim as either absurd or outrageous.

The same article asserts that the

ON THIS DAY

MARCH 2 1931

Sir Arnold Wilson, KCIE, CMG, DSO (1884-1940), was a soldier and civil administrator who turned to writing and politics. He had been acting Civil Commissioner in the Persian Gulf, and at the time of writing was with the Anglo-Persian oil company.

GREAT BRITAIN AND PERSIA

TELEGRAPH CONTROL ENDED

By Sir Arnold Wilson

The Indo-European Telegraph Department, after an honourable existence of nearly 60 years, handed over, on Saturday last, the control of all its landlines in Persia to the Persian Government. Its example has been followed by the Indo-European Telegraph Company, which was incorporated in 1868 to take over from Messrs Siemens Brothers and others the right to erect and maintain a line of telegraph between Teheran and London, via Berlin and Odessa, Tiflis, and Tabriz. Thus ends an episode in the history of British relations with Persia which reflects nothing but credit on the participants.

The first effective telegraph service between India and Europe was via Baghdad, Fao, and the Persian Gulf. The Gulf cable, laid in 1864, under the guidance of Sir Lewis Pelly, by Sir Charles Bright, the celebrated electrical engineer, and Colonel Sir Frederick Goldsmid of the Royal Engineers, at a cost of some £411,000 or £238 per nautical mile, was one of the best ever made. The most serious damage that it suffered in a useful life of over 40 years was when it was entangled and drowned, on the ocean bed at a great depth, a whale whose agility was not equal to its curiosity. While this cable was being laid, a landline was being constructed, at the request of the Persian Government, from Bushra to Baghdad, via Isfahan, Teheran, and Kachan, by a detachment of Royal Engineers under Colonel Patrick Stewart, of the Bengal Engineers, and Lieutenant (later Sir John) Bateman-Champain.

In 1871 the Indo-European Telegraph Department was transferred from the Government of Bombay to the Government of India, and by then, in 1901, to the India Office, which is now presiding over its obsequies.

About this period it became necessary either to renew the Gulf cables or to develop a more direct land line through Persia, as the Turkish section of the existing line had been so inefficiently worked as to be practically useless. The Persian Government, always well disposed to international cooperation, consented to the construction on its behalf of a land line connection Karachi via Kerman, Yazd, and Keshan, with Teheran and thus with Europe. This was from the outset a great success, and proved of great value to the Persian Government.

COURAGE AND TACT

Only those who remember the state of the Middle East at this period can properly appreciate the services rendered to Persia by the British staff of the Department. Their duties called for courage, character, and tact, and their influence was wholly for good. In the words of Sir Percy Sykes —

"Accurate information was, time and again, given to the Persian Government which saved many a rising, while the fact that telegraph offices were built or sanctuaries, permitted the oppressed to petition the Throne against a tyrannous Governor. It was through these officials, often living alone among the people, that Persians learned something of the order, the rectitude, and the devotion to duty of the British."

It fell to some to calm fanatical mobs, to others to lead rescue parties to save their line-guards and others who had been overcome by the terrible blizzards that sometimes sweep the Persian plateau. Some were murdered, others fell victims to the climate and to the rigours of the life they had to lead. One, Major O. St. John, narrowly escaped being eaten by a lion on the Pish Zan pass between Kazerun and Bushir in 1867. Not a few of their number devoted their leisure hours to the literature and art of the land in which they lived. One of the first Directors-in-Chief, Sir Robert Murdoch-Smith, became an Orientalist of repute and acquired for the Victoria and Albert Museum a collection of Persian ceramics, textiles, metalwork, paintings, and manuscripts for a long unequalled in Europe....

A riper old age

From Miss Joyce Allingham
Sir, I would like to support Mr Bowell's plea (February 21) for a realistic reappraisal of the term "elderly".

It was in 1882 that Dr Reginald Southey, of Bart's, advocated that old age started at 82 and that "after 75 the person should be loved and cared for, as then some do not, perhaps cannot, take care of themselves".

That was over 100 years ago and now, in spite of our improved medical knowledge, we regard the 60-year olds as elderly.

Yours faithfully,
JOYCE ALLINGHAM,
The Studio, The Square,
Tollusham D'Arcy, Maldon, Essex.
From Mrs B. M. W. Dobbie
Sir, Away with euphemisms! By 60 we are elderly, oldish. By 70, old. The psalmist knew.
Yours etc,
B. M. WILLMOT DOBBIE,
Gatrell, Sleaford Lane,
Bathaston, Bath, Avon.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 1: Mr A.C. Byre and Mr A.E. Robinson had the honour of being received by the Queen at Windsor Castle this morning when Her Majesty decorated them with the Royal Victorian Medal (Silver).

KENSINGTON PALACE
February 28: The Prince of Wales was represented by Mr Michael Bevan (Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Cambridgeshire) at the Memorial service for Professor Glyn Daniel which was held in St John's College Chapel, Cambridge, today.

The Duchess of York will attend the gala concert premiere of *The Hunting of the Snake*, in aid of the British Deaf Association, at the Albert Hall on April 1.

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir John Burgess will be held in Carlisle Cathedral at 5pm today.

A memorial service will be held for Mr Peter Burke, Headmaster of Claysmore School from 1945-1966, in the school chapel on Sunday, March 15 at 11 am, and Old Claysmoreians will be welcome.

Birthdays today

Sir John Ackroyd, 55; Miss Margaret Barlett, 40; Mr Harry Blech, 77; Lady Moyra Brown, 66; Baroness Burton of Coventry, 83; Lord Cottesloe, 87; Lord Crook, 86; Sir Leonard Crossland, 73; Rear-Admiral Sir Charles Darlington, 77; Lord Elton, 57; Sir Donald Gosling, 58; Mr R.E. Groves, 67; Sir Cyril Haines, 92; Lord Howie of Troon, 63; Dame Naomi James, 58; Mr T. Mervyn Jones, 77; Mr John Manduell, 59; Mr Daniel Meinertzhagen, 72; Dame Patten Mezzies, 88; Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Richardson, 58; Mr Robert Simpson, 66; Professor B.G.J. Upton, 54; Mr J.P.R. Williams, 38.

Today's royal engagements

Princess Anne, President of Save the Children Fund, will visit the Burden Matchbox Community Centre, Burdett Estate, Wallwood Street, E14, at 10; then attend the spring luncheon of the City of London Police Senior Officers' Dining Club at the McMoran Hall, Wood Street Police Office, EC4, at 12.45; and departs from RAF Northolt for Isny, Bavaria, West Germany, to visit the International Lowlanders Cross Country Ski Championships at 5.30.

The Duke of Gloucester, as patron, accompanied by the Duchess of Gloucester, will attend a dinner given by the British Mexican Society at the Cavalry and Guards Club, Piccadilly, at 7.40.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Samuel Houston, first President of Texas 1836-38, 1841-44, Lexington, Virginia, 1793; Bedrich Smetana, Litomyšl, Czechoslovakia, 1824.

DEATHS: John Wesley, London, 1791; Horace Walpole, fourth Earl of Orford, London, 1797; D.H. Lawrence, Venice, France, 1930.

Attempted assassination of Queen Victoria at Windsor, 1882.

Memorial service

Professor G. Daniel
The Prince of Wales was represented by Mr Michael Bevan, Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, at a memorial service for Professor Glyn Daniel held in the Chapel of St John's College, Cambridge, on Saturday. The Rev Andrew Macintosh, Dean, officiated. Lord Annan read *Requiem* by Thomas Hardy and Professor Colin Renfrew, Master of Jesus College, read *Early Chronology* by Siegfried Sassoon. Dr Richard Ferham, President of St John's College, and Sir Harry Hinsley, Master, read the lessons. The memorial tribute by Professor Frank Thistlethwaite was printed in the service sheet. Lord Adrian, Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University, attended.

Among others present were representatives of the Duchy of Cornwall, Anglia Television, the Society of Antiquaries of London, the British Academy, the Royal Anthropological Institute, the Cambridge Antiquarian Society, the Royal Irish Academy, the Cambrian Society, University College, Cardiff and the Antiquity Trust.

University of Oxford

Election of Chancellor: voting took place in Convocation House, on Thursday, March 12 (1.45-2.45; 3.30-4.30) and Saturday, March 14 (9.30-10.30; 11.45-12.45; 3-4). All members of Convocation are eligible to vote in person. Gowns should be worn.

Jesus College, Oxford

Any Jesus member of Convocation who intends to vote in the election for the Chancellorship on Saturday, March 14, 1987, in the afternoon, should arrive at the College by 12.30 pm, in the College Numbers limited. Please notify the Bursary (0865 279715), by March 11.

Trinity College, Oxford

Old members of Trinity who have taken their MA, and who intend to vote in the election for Chancellor of Oxford University on Saturday, March 14, are invited to luncheon in College that day. Please notify the Domestic Bursar's Assistant by Monday, March 9, telephone 0865 279873.

Claymore School

Those Old Claymoreians who have lost contact with the school and the society are requested to write to the bursar's secretary giving their name and address.

Parliament this week

Commons
Today (2.30): Debate on Welsh Affairs.
Tomorrow (2.30): Local Government Bill, second reading. Mr. Speaker will remain in the Chamber.
Wednesday (2.30): and Thursday (2.30): Abolition of Domestic Rates etc. (Scotland) Bill, second reading.
Friday (2.30): Debate on private law's motion on three cliffs.

Lords
Today (2.30): Debate on the Shrewsbury and Hereford Railway Bill, second reading. Mr. Speaker will remain in the Chamber.
Tomorrow (2.30): Debate on the Places of Worship Bill, second reading.
Wednesday (2.30): Debate on the "voting rights" of qualified married women (reading opportunities in the Chamber and on the English language and the case for making it easier to learn Billiards (Abolition of Restriction) Bill, second reading.
Thursday (2.30): Local Government Finance Bill, report.

Clifford Longley The crisis-strewn roads to freedom

It is apt that there should be a profound crisis of authority in the Church of England at the same time as there is a similar crisis in secular society, for they may well turn out to be the religious and secular versions of the same thing. The church's crisis is by no means limited to issues raised now by the ordination of women; it was manifest in the crisis over the Bishop of Durham's doctrinal opinions too, and by a whole series of other controversies before that.

The secular authority problem is usually stated in terms of a breakdown of respect for law and order, or of children for parents, or various similar juxtapositions. It is the collapse of the idea that obedience is in itself a virtue. It can be stated in positive terms, however, as can the authority crisis in religion, as being, in each case, a demand for self-determination and autonomy, even as an instinct for equality and freedom. The black youth on the street corner feels himself the equal of the policeman who tells him to move along; the feminist theologian feels herself as good as any Pope at discerning the will of God. What they feel is not necessarily unhealthy. Yet there have to be policemen and Popes.

It is an existential crisis, the projection of the loneliness of the individual onto whatever object of resentment is nearest. It is meaningless to criticize that loneliness, or to make of it a stick to beat the modern age with in the name of some golden past of ordered community and collective vision. For the emergence of the concept of the individual is a feature of the irresistible transition to secularism, and to a secular morality based on the idea that the primary moral characteristic of society is the possession by the individual of certain fundamental rights. They are not things granted by any outside agency, or bestowed upon individuals by external authority, but are attached to the status of a single being human as an inherent property of that status. This is a complete reversal of the moral ideology of feudalism, where only the feudal lord had rights, and all his subjects duties. It

is the essential underlying principle of democracy.

It is not at all clear, in such a theoretical analysis, what room this leaves for authority. Even the authority of majorities is tainted: only the authority of individuals over their own lives is pure. It is not at all clear, either, what room this leaves for God. If God is seen as a supernatural feudal autocrat, for the idea contradicts the essential idea of individual autonomy.

It may be that the authority predicament experienced by churches, or more specifically by members of churches, is actually the archetypal authority problem of which all other secular authority problems are just reflections. For the received structures of civil authority are penetrated through and through by implicit ideas of an absolute authority, of which all other lesser authority is a delegated fragment. This is particularly true of Britain, where the fount of civil authority is the Crown, and where the Crown itself receives its authority, as the Coronation Service makes clear, directly from the hands of the Almighty. That is the ultimate source of the authority exercised by the policeman too, via the Crown.

In the present church case, the rights being asserted are the rights of majorities, through the democratic system which governs the Church of England, and the rights of individual women to have their "vocation" tested, as the formula goes. This collides with authority head on: the authority of 2,000 years of tradition, the authority of Scripture, and the authority of the Pope, both as the present incarnation of these, and as an authority in his own right, "vicar of Christ." Unmistakably the Church of England is again engaged in a quarrel with the papacy — though a good deal less bloody than the last one — for it is from there that utters, in the contemporary world, the dogmatic voice which says no to women priests.

Were the Pope to change his mind tomorrow, the Church of England's dilemma over women priests would be

largely solved. The Church of England's difficulty is that it has no Pope of its own who could decide the issue by an exercise of dogmatic authority that all would accept. So it substitutes majorities; it has no other course, but majorities are fickle and by no means obviously always right. It is a modern, post-Enlightenment predicament, entirely suited to a modern post-Enlightenment culture such as England, and equally at a loss when faced with a difficulty that requires some recourse to dogma before it can be solved. There is no dogmatic principle; "dogmatic" has itself become a word of abuse. It implies an unacceptable inequality in the knowledge of what is true and right, and requires some unacceptable surrender of personal autonomy in the presence of an external force.

That is exactly the way authority is now generally questioned and disputed in society at large. The local authority of a policeman or parent rests upon a general authority, that of the state, which in turn rests upon the dogma of God as the original source of that authority, in societies like Britain; or the dogma that the will of the people is always right (and God agrees with it), as in the United States. The model of society which excludes any possibility of a dogmatic source of truth, such as the Soviet Union, is the model which (necessarily) proposes that the state must withdraw away too.

The Church of England clutches rather thinly to the hope that reason, or rather Reason, can replace dogma as the ground of authority; but it does so in the presence of a society which has not much time for such eighteenth century ideals, and which is less and less governed by Reason. The decline of authority, of dogma or of reason, places all ideas on an equal footing in the same market place, and that which is victorious (and therefore "true") is that which gains most power. The decline of authority is the decline of any spiritual Unifying Idea, a decline which is just as apparent in the nation as it is in the national church.

Nature notes

Hares rise to challenge

Ravens are nesting on rocky cliffs and in wooded areas. The males suddenly dive with closed wings, or glide upside down. Ravens are slowly repairing their nests in the tree-tops, but are not so far advanced as the ravens. Mallard pairs are looking for nest-sites.



Yellowhammers are singing again in the lanes: at this time of the year the males have brilliant plumage-coloured heads. Goldfinches sing as they fly, producing a sound like the quick clicking of a glass bell. Redwings are gathering in the trees before returning to Scandinavia; when the sun comes out they sing a soft, bubbling song in choruses.

Badgers are emerging from their winter burrows and dragging out piles of old bedding, mainly of rotten leaves. Male hares are beginning to fight over mates: they rear up on their hind legs and box with each other, or jump over a rival and kick him from above.

DJM

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.F. Heston and Miss S.M. Capron
The engagement is announced between John, second son of Mr and Mrs A. Heston, of New castle, Co Down, Northern Ireland, and Mary, only daughter of Mr and Mrs B. Capron, of Fulham, London.

Mr M.J. Adams and Miss H.C. Chisholm
The engagement is announced between Mark John Adams, The Royal Green Jackets, elder son of Mr and Mrs J. Adams, of Wareham, Dorset, and Joanna, only daughter of Mr and Mrs K.H. Lewis, of East Lulworth, Dorset.

Mr A.C. Davidson and Miss L. Watson
The engagement is announced between Anthony Colin, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Walter Davidson, of Kenya, and Lindsay, daughter of Mr and Mrs Thomas Watson, of Edinburgh.

Mr E. Farrelly and Miss L. Bruce
The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Mr George Barker and Mrs Lavinia Farrelly, and Linda, daughter of Mr and Mrs Alister Bruce.

Mr A.C.P. Gooding and Miss C.M. Moody
The engagement is announced between Andrew Gooding, Royal Engineers, son of Mr and Mrs Arthur Gooding, of Black Dog, Devon, and Clare, only daughter of the Rev Raymond and Mrs Moody, of Burford, Oxfordshire.

Mr M.P. Harkin and Miss L.R. Sharland
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr and Mrs J.C. Harkin, of Melbourne, Australia, and Virginia, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs T.H.A. Sharland, of Benson, Oxfordshire.

Mr C.J. Holtz and Miss B.F. Sizemore
The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs John Holtz, of Guildford, Surrey, and Billie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Tony Simmons, of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands.

Flight Lieutenant E.R. Lucie-Smith and Miss T. Methan

The engagement is announced between Euan, only son of Wing Commander H. and Mrs E.R. Lucie-Smith, of Epsom, and Tina, elder daughter of Captain and Mrs E. Methan, of Wilbury, Humberston.

Mr D.A. Walden and Miss T.A. Herman
The engagement is announced between David, eldest son of Mr and Mrs G. Walden, of Wood Green, and Terina, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs W.T. Herman, of Highgate.

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Mr G.E.F. Briston and Miss J.J. Knocker
The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of St John the Baptist, of New castle, Co Down, Northern Ireland, between Mr and Mrs G.E.F. Briston, second son of Mr and the Hon Mrs James Briston, of Odell, Bedfordshire, and Miss Juliet Knocker, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Paul Knocker, of Windsor, Berkshire. Canon D.N. Griffiths officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by James Somers, Nicola Snow, Henrietta Lawson Johnson, Annabel King and Alexandra Castleman. Mr E.I. White was best man.

A reception was held at the Oakley Court Hotel, Windsor, and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Dr P.J. Clift and Dr D. Watson
The marriage took place on Saturday, February 28, at St Bartholomew's Church, London, between Dr Paul J. Clift, son of Mr and Mrs D.J. Clift, of Westcliff-on-Sea, and Dr Diane Watson, daughter of Mr and Mrs P. Watson, of Solihull.

Mr J.M. Clifton and Miss K.E. Wanklyn
The marriage took place on February 28, in Melbourne, Australia, of Mr John Miles Clifton, son of Mr A.J. Clifton, and the late Mrs H.T. Clifton, and Miss Kaye Elizabeth Wanklyn, daughter of Mr and Mrs Noel Wanklyn.

Mr R.H. Ingle and Mrs S.D. Perrett
The marriage took place on Wednesday, February 25, in Harrogate, between Mr Richard Henry Ingle, and Mrs Susan Dorothy Perrett (née Kemp).

The Hon M. St. J. Tread and Miss J.E. Kershaw
The marriage took place on Saturday in Henry VIII's Chapel in Westminster Abbey of the Hon Michael Tread, elder son of Lord and Lady Tread, of London, SW1, and Miss Hilary Kershaw, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs L.A. Kershaw, of Oldham. The Very Rev Michael Mayne, Dean of Westminster, the Rev Alan Luff, Proctor, and the Rev Paul Arnold officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Edith Coakley, Dr the Hon Patrick Tread was best man.

A reception was held in the Jerusalem Chamber of Westminster Abbey.

Lieutenant R.C. Fortescue and Miss P.G. Harrison
The marriage took place on Saturday, February 28, 1987, at St Bartholomew's Church, Scarborough, between Lieutenant R.C. Fortescue, RN, and Miss P.G. Harrison.

Sale room

Precious words yield rich rewards

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

The greatest library ever compiled of books and manuscripts devoted to hunting and other country sports began to come under Sotheby's hammer in Monaco on Saturday night. The first session handling the collection built up by Marcel Jeanson in the years between the two world wars realized £784,000 (£856,000). Two more sessions are to follow.

Saturday's star turn was the only known illuminated manuscript of a famous 16th century French poem by Guillaume Cretin. It is cast in the form of a debate between two ladies over whether hunting or love-making was superior. Written and illuminated in Rouen around 1525, it has four richly decorative miniatures illustrating the debate, and sold for £421,000 (estimate £220,000-£300,000), or £44,782, to Quarritch, the London dealer.

Jeanson was a French industrialist whose twin passions were book collecting and hunting. He had a hide, the River Somme and is said to have escaped from the trenches to go snipe-shooting during the First World War.

Later, encouraged to keep some books in the hide, he became fascinated with such volumes, and with the help of the specialised Paris dealers Emile Noirey and Jean Thibaud, formed an unrepentant collector. The rarities went for huge prices on Sotheby's auction room on Saturday though some of the lesser items were reasonably inexpensive, according to Sotheby's.

A landmark in the literature on hunting is Jacques de Fouilleux's *La Venerie*, first published in 1561. Jeanson had a host of different editions which made very high prices. The very rare first edition sold for £321,900 (estimate £120,000-£180,000), or £34,245, while an edition published in Bayreuth in 1754 with charming copper illustrations went for £210,900 (estimate £70,000-£110,000), or £22,436.

From the British school there was an extensive offering of Alken prints but here bidding proved selective. The series of 36 plates titled *Ideas, Accidents and Incidents to Hunting, and other Sports, caught in Leicester*, dated 1826-30, made £759,500 (estimate £240,000-£315,000), or £53,314, while 50 illustrations to *The National Sports of Great Britain* failed to sell.

Sotheby's two day sale of 19th and 20th century and contemporary prints in New York on Thursday and Friday made £600,642 with 3 per cent left unsold. A Japanese dealer paid the top price at \$20,900 (estimate \$14,000-£18,000), or £13,571, for a 1980 colour lithograph by Chagall entitled "Le Couple en Crepuscule".

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OBITUARY

PROF LIONEL STONES

Historian with a sure touch

Professor Lionel Stones, FBA, medieval historian, died on February 14. He was 72.

An Anglo-Scot by inclination, he came naturally to concentrate his penetrating research powers on Anglo-Scottish relations in the central Middle Ages (an interest that did not emerge, though, until his mid-30s).

Lionel Gregory Stones was born at Croydon on March 4, 1914, of Yorkshire stock. He was educated at Glasgow High School, in which city his father was senior gas works engineer.

After graduating with first class honours in English at Glasgow University, he went to Balliol College, Oxford, where, tutored by V. H. Galbraith and R. W. Southern, and much influenced by F. M. Powicke, he took a first in modern history in 1939.

His war service was with the Royal Signals in India - with the rank of major from 1943. Military experience gave him a wry appreciation of the problems and deficiencies of large administrations, both modern and historical.

Stones' academic career was spent at Glasgow University, for which he had much affection. First on its staff, briefly, in 1939, he returned in 1945 as principal specialist and lecturer in medieval history (though he was once crisply instructed by the professor to "go and do Napoleon").

He himself was appointed professor in 1956, and retained the post until his retirement in 1978.

His lectures, presented a

little shyly and in genuine modesty, were disarmingly direct and never over-structured. For students who caught his enthusiasms, he opened doors of delight into the world of the Middle Ages.

His many published articles are built on firm documentary study and a knack for discovering significant but unannotated texts. The Public Records Office was almost his second home.

Stones inherited from the Powicke tradition a concern for the "building-bricks" of history. He published, in 1965, *Anglo-Scottish Relations, 1174-1328*.

In his one general book, a short biography of Edward I (1968), he displays his sureness of judgment and clarity of thought. A massive collaborative study of the record sources for Edward's case over Scotland in 1291-2 led, fittingly, to his election to the British Academy in 1979.

In scholarship he was humane, and his life rested on a devout Anglican faith. His warmth of personality, kindness in deeds, and gentle humour brought him a wide circle of friends.

His cultural and intellectual interests - in music, church architecture, archaeology and photography - were balanced by a striking dexterity in manual problems: he could, with ease, repair a sash window or adjust an awkward garage entry.

He married, in 1947, Jeanne Fradin, herself a medieval historian, who survives him with their son and daughter.

MR DAVID SUSSKIND

Mr David Susskind, controversial American chat show host and producer of plays and films, died on February 22. He was 66.

He came to international attention in 1960 after a live interview with Khrushchev in which he gave the Soviet leader free reign to deliver some lengthy propaganda lectures.

Many aggrieved viewers wrote to complain, his sponsors refused to go on financing the programme, and taxi-drivers, who call everybody "bud", now called him "commie bum".

David Howard Susskind was born in New York City on December 19, 1920. He was educated at Harvard and served in the navy during the Second World War.

After the war he was, for a couple of years, a press agent for Warner Bros, and the Universal Picture Corporation. He then worked as a talent scout, before setting up his own company in 1952.

He moved into the theatre and produced a number of Broadway plays, among them *A Very Special Baby* (1956), *Handful of Fire* (1958) and *Brig Lives* (1967).

He was, at the same time, producing films, the more notable of which are Peckinpah's *Straw Dogs* (1972); as well as *Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore* (1974), *Buffalo Bill and the Indians* (1976) and *Fort Apache, the Bronx* (1981).

His television work included *The Glass Menagerie*, with Katharine Hepburn, and *Elmer and Franklin*, which won a dozen Emmy awards. He also produced *The Moon and Sixpence* with Olivier, and *The Browning Version*, *Inter Alia* with Gielgud.

He returned to academic medicine as physician to the United Birmingham Hospitals (1948 to 1974). At the university he lectured until 1966, when he was appointed professor of medicine, a post he held until 1974.

For a number of years he helped edit the *Quarterly Journal of Medicine*. His chief research interests were lung volume, radiation damage to thoracic tissues, and cardiomyopathy. But he wrote over a hundred papers on a wide variety of subjects.

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MR JOHN BEEVOR

There is more to be said about Jack Beavor's clandestine career than you had, perhaps, room for in your obituary of February 28.

Having been head of the school at Winchester, he learned early to accept responsibility, as a City solicitor before the war, he learned how to keep his mouth shut.

He was the Special Operations Executive's man in Lisbon for two awkward years, until his diplomatic cover wore too thin and he had to be withdrawn.

But it was as the host of his "Open End" chat show that the crew-cut Susskind was, perhaps, best known. Begun in 1958, it was thus called because he and his guests simply talked until they had nothing left to say.

Called "open mouth" by its detractors, it was, nevertheless, a bold attempt at providing live entertainment aimed somewhere higher than the viewers' solar plexus, and included various presidents among the guests.

Beginning at 10 in the evening, it often ran for four hours or until the talkers' eyes began to contract, they sank lower in their chairs, and became nonsensical.

In 1960, shortly after the shooting down of an American U-2 spy plane in Soviet airspace, Khrushchev was attending a UN security council meeting in New York at which he demonstrated his displeasure by banging his shoe on a table.

He afterwards agreed to submit himself to an interview with Susskind, who gave him a more or less free hand, apart from the final minutes when he described Khrushchev's policies as "baying at the moon."

injured in a police cell.
Crucible Theatre Studio, 55
Norfolk Street (0742 769922). Mon-
Sat 7.45-10pm, £3.50, until March
21.

**STRATFORD-UPON-
AVON:** ★ *Kiss Me Kate*: Paul
Jones as Petruchio and Nichole

McAuliffe as Kate in the RSC's first American musical.
Royal Shakespeare Theatre,
Waterside, Stratford-upon-Avon
(0789 295623). Mon-Sat 7.30-

10.15pm, matinees Wed and Sat
2.30-5.15pm, 7.25-8.15pm, until
March 7.

FILMS

BACK TO SCHOOL (15): Colligate hi-jinks with a new twist – a middle-aged, sea-stranded millionaire enlists his son to encourage his son. With Rodney Dangerfield, Sally Kellerman; directed by Alan Parker (1986).
Canton Haymarket (R) (1985 1527). Prices: 1.50, 4.05, 6.20, 8.35.
THE BURNING OF NOBLES (PG) (1991 1515). Prices: 1.15, 3.35, 5.55, 8.15.

■ **CASTAWAY (15)**: Lucy Irvine's tropical island adventure, filmed by Nicolas Roeg with pretty and provocative pictures, but no narrative drive. With Oliver Reed and newcomer Amanda Donohoe (15 min).
St Cannon Fulham Road (01-377 2636, or 01-377 6950). Prices: 2.00,

35 Cannon Shaftesbury Avenue
(01-636 6861) Progs 2.30, 5.35, 8.30

CHILDREN OF A LESSER GOD
(15)- Polish version of the Broadway play, with William Hurt as the teacher of deaf adolescents involved in a love affair with a former pupil (Marie Martin). Nominated for five Oscars (13 min).
S. on the N11 (01-370 2636, ex 01-373 6990). Progs 6.00, 9.00.

CHILDREN OF A LESSER SQUARE
(15)- 1234, ex 01-240 7200. Progs 1.30, 3.00, 6.00, 8.30.

COMING UP ROSES (PG) Modest, endearing Welsh-language comedy about a small town cinema. Directed by Stephen Bayly with a touch of the old Ealing spirit.
S. on the N11 (01-636 6861). Progs 1.35, 3.30, 5.50, 8.15.

COMING UP THE HILL (01-435 3366). Progs 3.05, 5.50, 9.05.

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COMING UP THE HILL (01-435 3366). Progs 3.05, 5.50, 9.05.

THE FANTASIST (1918) Director Robin Hardy returns with another tale of a woman who is kidnapped at large in Dublin. With Moira Harris as the heroine in peril, Christopher Cazenove as a one-legged police inspector and heaps of local colour (94 min).

Warren Goffman (Sweet 01-658)
James Frawley (L.A. 4-40, 6-11)
Clarence West (East 01-439 0791, 01-43-39 1534). **Progs** 2,25, 4,30, 8,35, 8,40.

GOTWICH (1918) Kern Russell's film starts with the stormy gathering at Robin's Villa Diogenes. It then resumes Mary Goodwin's *Frankenstein*. With Gabriel Byrne, Natasha Richardson and Christopher Cazenove, it is regularly stolen by lightning, legends, plastic armour and female automations (87 min).

James Frawley (01-658 0761, 01-43-39 3014). **Progs** 1,16, 3,10, 5,05, 7,05, 9,10.

NANOU (1918) A modest first feature

THE SACRIFICE (15): Andrei Tarkovsky's testament – a starkly beautiful parable, shot in Sweden, with Erland Josephson as the Intellectual here facing the world's end (148 min).
3. *Infinitum* (1): 235 4225. Progs 2.0, 6.15, 5.30.
30. *Flower* (1): 237 8422. Progs 2.10, 5.30, 5.15.

▲ SALVADOR (15): Vivid political drama set in Central America. Inspired by the past adventures of photo-journalist Richard Boyle. Directed by Oliver Stone. Stars James Woods, James Belushi (129 min).
Canon Tottenham Court Road
 01-636 8148. Progs 2.55, 5.30, 5.15.

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skill kindled by her period with
radio in the 1950s. Her roles have
varied and strange: in Chantal
Jeanne Dielman (March 18) she is a
housewife and prostitute; in Mar-
cel's *India Song* (March 29) she
narrates in Calcutta; in Bunuel's
Birth of the Bourgeoisie (tomorrow)
she is right, she is by far the most
of the characters in search of
National Film Theatre (01-928 3732).
will be interviewed on stage on
£2.95). Geoff Brown

St Anne and St Agnes's, Greenwich
 Street, London SE10 (01-373 6500),
 11.15-1.50pm, free.

VARIATIONS

★ **BACH CHOIRS DORMIT:** The rarely heard *Stabat Mater* of Dormit is performed by the Bach Choir, Philharmonic Orchestra and St Anne and St Agnes's, Greenwich, London SE10. The choir will sing at the Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-526 5151, or 01-526 8600) 7.30-9.45pm, £25-£35.

★ **PETER SERLIN:** An uncommonly interesting piano recital by Peter Serlin (son of Rudin) includes Beethoven's "crazy" variations, Messiaen's *Cantéreydeye*, Tchaikovsky's *Flair* Trio, Stefan Wolpe's *Form IV*, Wagners *Lull*, 35 Wagners *Street*, London W1 (01-935 2141), 7.30-

☆ **PETER DONOHUE** Difficult for piano buffs to choose between the piano and Peter Donohue's presentation of Debussy's *Images II*, Rachmaninov's complete Preludes Op. 32 and Scriabin's *Poetisches Opus No. 16*.
Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London
SE1 1 026 3191, 01-422 3191, 01-422 3192, 01-422 3193, 01-422 3194

☆ **RAPHAEL ENSEMBLE**
Brahms's String Sextet No. 16, the six-part Ricercar from Bach's *The Musical Offering* and the *Concerto for Violin and Orchestra* by Arnold Schoenberg are played by the Raphael Ensemble of London.
Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London
SE1 1 026 3191, 01-422 3191, 01-422 3192, 01-422 3193, 01-422 3194

☆ **BEN E. KROG** "Stand by Me" is

heading fast at number one but will king be up to this kind of challenge, say how far along out of the limelight?

London Postgraduate, 6 Argyle Street, London, W1C 3AG (01-437 7356), 7.30pm, £7.50-120-15.00.

★ **CHINA CHINESE**—Re-scheduled show (original film from Feb 5 valid) for the brassy inoffensive pop song and dance of jazz and sophistication. Support is The Bible with their excellent "Mahalia".


International 2, 210 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York (001 224 5050), 8pm, \$25-25.00.

★ **TIMEBUNK 3:** Despite their beatbox backing, the "Future So Bright"

[illegible][illegible]

in

in



me Amen
corner

THE ARTS

Country comfort

Hank Wangford shifted territory to Nashville for the *A-Z of C & W* (Channel 4). It was a wise move since *HW*, with his appearance of Dickensian dissipation, looks no more like a cowboy than he does a gynaecologist — his daytime profession. Once in the land of buckskins and stetsons, his enthusiasm for a genre that has spawned such classic titles as "I'll Be Over You When the Grass Grows Over Me" was harnessed into an immensely enjoyable investigation of all things Country.

TELEVISION

Cheatin' Children and Drunk took their place alongside Fans and Feminism in a rhinestone-studded cavalcade which provided an ideal foil for Wangford's irony and admiration. He wandered through the wigs and toupes of a cast which included Conway Twitty, Loretta Lynn and Tammy Wynette, extracting such wonderfully appropriate observations as "it's harder to take them as 'his' harder to take them as 'her' than it is from a woman".

This was uttered by the long-suffering Loretta who emphasized the heartbreak and tribulation caused by their rotten, cheatin' men, although it beat me how such an unattractive bunch of males as there were on this show could be in the position of even thinking about cheatin'.

The South Bank Show (LWT) presented the London Underground in a colourful array of guises which included those of shelter, muse, vault and workhouse. As one who holds a particular dislike for this form of transport I was impressed by such a display of positive thinking about what I regard as simply so many chambers of horror.

From *Thunderbolt* to *Sherlock Holmes*, the labyrinth has provided the backdrop for many a scenario that demands a dash of the unpredictable. Likewise it has supplied the inspiration for a number of 20th-century artists, as was demonstrated in a clip from Jill Craigie's film illustrating how Henry Moore captured the vulnerability and mortality of the sleeping humans that covered the platforms like dust during the Blitz.

Fast-paced and with the appealing roughness of a scrapbook's content, Tony Knox's and Melvyn Bragg's programmes successfully managed to convey the earliest qualities of this "subterranean world".

Alexandra Shulman

Richard Morrison on this page last week put his finger accurately on the real reason behind the London Philharmonic Orchestra's abortive attempts to "take over" the Philharmonia. He is quite right in saying that it could never have succeeded against the wishes of the Philharmonia players. No professional could have imagined in his wildest dreams that the Philharmonia would wish to place themselves under the LPO yoke. Therefore, the obvious aim was to try to demoralize the Philharmonia, and to start a propaganda war.

Clearly the LPO realized that, if a choice were to be made in the future for a single resident orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall, it would automatically be the Philharmonia, which has the reputation of having the highest standards of the London orchestras.

The Philharmonia has been running subscription schemes since 1980, and now has 4,000 subscribers. It also has 1,000 "Friends" and extremely healthy long-term sponsorship. Since the LPO's publicity stunt last December, the Philharmonia's sponsors have been quick to confirm their continuing support of the orchestra. Indeed, two have increased their sponsorship.

For the past few seasons the Philharmonia's conductors list has compared very favourably with those of other leading world orchestras. This season includes Sinopoli, Salonen, Giulini, Jochum, Haitink, Rozhdievsky, Sir Colin Davis and Andrew Davis, Svet-

A destructive imagination

Christopher Bishop (right), managing director of the Philharmonia, refutes the claims of the London Philharmonic in the 'propaganda war' it is waging in its attempt to take over his own orchestra



lanov and Bychkov, and this level will be maintained in the future. From a glance at the LPO's current conductors list, it is easy to understand that in their take-over bid they would hope to appropriate the Philharmonia's conductors.

Bernard Haitink and Andrew Davis will continue to conduct the Philharmonia in the future, and for the LPO to say that Simon Rattle 'figures strongly' in their plans is totally untrue. He is performing Mahler and Berg with the Philharmonia in November 1987, and repeating the Glyndebourne *Porgy and Bess* in February 1988 with the LPO. Otherwise he has no dates with any London orchestra in the future.

The suggestion that Simon Rattle is in some way involved in the LPO's designs is misleading, and mischievous. He is without doubt fully committed to his imaginative

and courageous crusade with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, and I have it on the authority of his agents (Harold Holt) that he has no exclusive agreement with the LPO, tacit or otherwise, or with any London musical organization.

The fact that the LPO's management have to resort to their present tactics no doubt stems from the problems they face. Sadly, their music director has had to cancel all work for an indefinite period because of illness. They have the lowest attendance figures of the four London orchestras at the Royal Festival Hall and have recently lost five key members of their administration.

Their use of the Electoral Reform Society for their ballot is a red herring. The ERS were amazed to learn that the Philharmonia had not

been consulted about the ballot. Had they seriously wanted a vote they would have sought our agreement first, and would not have previously informed the Press.

It is a sad result of the problems caused by the continued underfunding of the London orchestras that the destructive behaviour of the LPO could ever be seen as "imaginative". The Philharmonia would prefer that its imaginativeness should be judged by the quality of its programme planning, where it has a distinguished record. The South Bank Board hopes to revolutionize London's music-making by putting its vast resources behind themes and cycles. The Philharmonia has been putting its limited resources behind thematically linked concerts for years. It has given 10 cycles since 1976.

Finding space within the mind

OPERA

The Trojans
New Theatre, Cardiff



Della Jones: convincing decline from serenity into hysteria

The weapons were rattled to auspicious effect when the first part of Bertozzi's opera was produced by Opera North last September, but it has fallen to Welsh National Opera to win the war. And this is only right, for of all the regional companies (Scottish Opera are in on this deal as well) WNO have shown the most nous in putting epic opera into a shoebox.

I do not know if Tim Albery has learnt lessons, both positive and negative, from the company's *King and Othello*, but certainly he comes to the appropriate conclusion that there is no point in creating productions that look scaled down or sliced off. If there is limited space on stage, then more has to be found inside the spectator's head, by making stage pictures that resonate. And they can resonate either because they are vibrant with choral life (this is again a production in which the WNO chorus act with discipline and conviction, besides singing with immense strength), or else because their visual imagery has an emblematic force and richness.

It is here, of course, that Mr Albery has been most helped by his designers, Tom Cairns and Anthony McDonald. In *The Fall of Troy* they had already shown that a hybrid of classical, contemporary and

19th-century elements could be coherent; the full opera shows that it also has great possibilities for variety of tone.

Where the Trojan acts were generally dark, coloured with blood and iron, black, purple and gold, the first Carthaginian act opens in glorious luminosity. Even the bare white cube of the set seems refreshingly novel when the artists' costumes are in such harmonies of clear colour: stone and sulphur for the builders, ultramarine with touches of bright pink and verdigris for the sailors, corn-yellow and terracotta for the farmers. And the simplicity of the scene is further enhanced by Ian Spink's choreography. Having only seven dancers at his disposal, Mr Spink sensibly has this Act III divertissement performed by the chorus, with minimal movements, and then makes his ballet team work hard in Act IV.

The design team, too, are hard at work, and to magical effect. The "Royal Hunt and Storm" is elegant, evocative

and erotic: the emblems now include lizards and snakes on the white walls, a huge relief map of Africa, two symphonic bathing in exiles that fall constantly down across a rear opening, two fawns to lust after them, and a live kid to be held by Dido as she sits in her bonnet garden. The whole thing stays just on the breath-taking side of kitsch, at least until the appearance of the leopard, about which something will have to be done. However, the arrival of Mercury as a blooded savage is a coup de théâtre of pointed significance.

In the final act the breakdown of naturalism goes much further, because now there is a proper scene, of Beachy Head and the open sea, but its conventions are only intermittently observed: sometimes people creep around the shore, but often they walk straight over the water. However, this seems entirely of a piece with the hardy inconsistency in Bertozzi's score, whereby a sequence of nightmarish audacity (the scene with Aeneas and the phos) can suddenly be followed by the most traditional sort of recitative.

Mr Albery is also faithful to Bertozzi in his straightforwardness. Dido's asides in the quintet are delivered straight to the audience, and the love

duet is also sung by two people staring directly ahead. Directorial intervention comes only where it has to, because, for instance, there is so much ceremonial music in the last act; and then Mr Albery's solutions are striking.

The dramatic integrity of the production is evident in the central performances, though the singing falls short of the level of wonder Bertozzi demands. Only Della Jones as Dido begins to sound like a demigod, besides presenting a convincing decline from maternity serenity into hysteria. Jeffrey Lawton is the bluff Aeneas, and Kristine Ciesinski, stepping in for an indisposed Anne Evans, repeats her intense but vocally uneven portrayal of Cassandra. Others in this large cast to make a mark include Sean Rea's ancient Nabal, Timothy German's pleasant Hylas, Mark Holland's stark, strong Pantheus and Peter Bronders's striving Iopas (though making him look like Bertozzi is an idea that should have been dropped).

Sir Charles Mackerras conducts a performance that perhaps lacks sophistication in such passages as Andromache's mime, but has the proper Bertozzian mixture of the massive and the lean.

Paul Griffiths

THEATRE

Kathie and the Hippopotamus
Almeida

In this highly entertaining but slippery piece, Mario Vargas Llosa presents a two-character fantasy for four people — or possibly five if you include the author's own participation in the action.

In the seclusion of a Paris attic, the wife of a Peruvian banker is compiling her memoirs with the aid of a ghost-writing companion. Whether she is doing it to create an oasis of meaning in her otherwise desolate life, or simply out of vanity, is one of the play's unanswered questions.

Before this routine has had time to pall the travogue is interrupted by scenes from the partners' private lives. We see Kathie as a girl holding Lima's *jeunesse dorée* at arm's length, and finally settling for a playboy who promptly neglects her, and his banking firm, to spend his life at the surfing club. Simultaneously, the ghost-writer, Santiago, emerges as a self-aggrandizing hypocrite who embarks on a ridiculous affair with a girl student.

The parts are deliberately written in a vein of black and white stereotype which enables Llosa to score a succession of moral and national points with clarity and comic punch. Among these are the perennial human instinct for self-justification and — so we are told — the Peruvian tendency to prefer heroic gestures to the humdrum labour of social reform.

Some of these themes come together in a passage from the memoirs when Kathie witnesses two hippopotamuses battling for possession of a female. It is beyond even Santiago's imagination to embroider on that: it is too close to his own macho reveries. It is also a moment when the spectator is relieved to come back to earth. The play concerns a pact between two people who meet every day to tell each other comforting lies. But, as Llosa works it out, much of what they present is the truth. And, if you concede that you are watching their inner thoughts, they would hardly still picture themselves as the stereotypes projected by a derisive author.

In Stephen Unwin's production (transferred from the Traverse) the elements merge with fluency and contrast, affording Janet Amisen and Robert Swann rich opportunity for displays of outrageous egotism and self-righteous myopia. They are well supported by Kate Duchêne and Alan Barker as the ill-used and ill-using spouses.

Irving Wardle

CONCERTS

Guildhall String Ensemble/Bannan
St John's

The final but enduring climax of the New Moonlighten Russo-British series came in the first performance here of *Perception*, a joint work by the Soviet composer Sofia Gubaidulina and the German poet Francesco Tanzer.

Its history, I know, is going to sound infinitely precious: the two artists began an intimate conversation by correspondence, he speaking in words, she in music; then she collected the fragments into a 30-minute work for baritone, soprano and string septet. But what might easily have been a

self-regarding private dialogue is instead, rather as much of Messiaen is, a liturgy, a public meditation on themes of communion between man and woman, words and music, humanity and God.

Where Messiaen is spectacularly affirmative, however, Gubaidulina withdraws towards a glowing dumbness. The baritone, who delivers most of the text and does so in parlando fashion, throws bridge after bridge in the direction of the soprano, but her responses are sibilant, often in single words sung to a cold, high flame of sound.

Meanwhile the strings provide more a spiritual landscape than an accompaniment: a landscape often of sustained harmonics and dry rustlings, though with two interludes of radiant gliding triads with an intensely beautiful violin solo in what I

take to be the pivotal movement, where grace is granted in the music even though the words appear to be preaching an unappealing sort of esoteric Christianity.

Kym Amps was ecstatic but also keenly attuned and controlled as the soprano soloist, while Gary Coward aptly presented a more mundane and amiable personality. He was effective too in Alexander Vustin's hushed, quick *Confessional* for baritone and quartet, though this piece really needed translation. Nicholas Bannan conducted the excellently alert and silver Guildhall String Ensemble in the Gubaidulina and his own scampering *Round Dance*.

Paul Griffiths

George Malcolm
Wigmore Hall

There was a cake at the end with 70 twinkling candles; but George Malcolm had to sing, as it were, for his supper. He never left the stage during his own seventieth birthday tribute: there he was, grey and diminutive, celebrating his own long career as keyboard soloist, accompanist, scholar and *enfant terrible*.

Nothing makes one feel one's age quite so much as that sense of sudden *deja vu* which comes from witnessing live and out of the blue the performing style of what already seems another era. For people just do not play the

harpichord like that any more. Artificially controlled dynamics, pedal phrasing, trills like little bells hung at the end of each line. In Malcolm's six Scarlatti sonatas, the bright light of the Spanish court seemed to be filtered through the mullion windows of an English library. The deliberate athleticism within Scarlatti's virtuosity was discreetly ignored. Urbanity was all.

There was nothing urbane, though, about Bach's B minor Sonata for flute and harpsichord in which Malcolm received his first guest, William Bennett. Was baroque music really played like this 20 years or more ago? Relentlessly stolid rhythms, sullen phrasing and a treacle-like moto perpetuo of uninflected activity: our expectations have changed, and it was difficult to think charitable birthday thoughts during either the Bach or Julian Bream's Vivaldi G minor Sonata.

What the ear craved was some evidence of continuing musical re-examination. Sir Yehudi Menuhin gave it after the interval, in a tentative halting but still engaging, still inwardly lyrical performance of Beethoven's Sonata in G, Op 96. It took Dame Janet Baker, though, to bring out the best in the evening, and the best in Malcolm himself. Six Schubert songs, including "An die Laute", sung in miraculously controlled half-voice, revealed a live artistry and commitment which bears the label of no one epoch.

Hilary Finch

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43	Tip Top Drug	Industrials L-R	
44	Lea	Industrials L-R	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £2.00 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

BRITISH FUNDS						
Stock	Out	Share	Price	Int.	Div.	Yield
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

SHORTS (Under Five Years)						
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS						
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS						
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

UNDATED						
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

INDEX-UNLINKED						
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

BANKS DISCOUNT HP						
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

ELECTRICALS						
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

INDUSTRIALS A-D						
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

HOTELS AND CATERERS						
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

INDUSTRIALS E-K						
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

L-R						
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

S-Z						
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS						
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

OIL						
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

TOBACCO						
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

PROPERTY						
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

SHIPPING						
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

SHOES AND LEATHER						
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

TEXTILES						
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

Capitalization and week's change

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began February 23. Dealings end on Friday, 5 Contango day March 9. Settlement day March 16.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices are Friday's middle prices. Change, dividend, yield and P/E ratios are calculated on middle prices. (ns) denotes Alpha Stocks.

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

BREWERIES					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

BUILDINGS AND ROADS					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

FINANCE AND LAND					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

FOODS					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

CINEMAS AND TV					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

DRAPERY AND STORES					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

HOTELS AND CATERERS					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

INDUSTRIALS A-D					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

INDUSTRIALS E-K					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

L-R					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

S-Z					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

OIL					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

TOBACCO					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

PROPERTY					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

SHIPPING					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

SHOES AND LEATHER					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

TEXTILES					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

BREWERIES					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

BUILDINGS AND ROADS					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

FINANCE AND LAND					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

FOODS					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

CINEMAS AND TV					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

DRAPERY AND STORES					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

HOTELS AND CATERERS					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

INDUSTRIALS A-D					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

INDUSTRIALS E-K					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

L-R					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

S-Z					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

OIL					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

TOBACCO					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

PROPERTY					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

SHIPPING					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

SHOES AND LEATHER					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

TEXTILES					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

BREWERIES					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

BUILDINGS AND ROADS					
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FINANCE AND LAND					
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FOODS					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS					
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CINEMAS AND TV					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

DRAPERY AND STORES					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

HOTELS AND CATERERS					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

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1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

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1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

L-R					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

S-Z					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

OIL					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

TOBACCO					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

PROPERTY					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

SHIPPING					
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

210.0m	McKee	100	-5	14.8	48	14.8
5833.0m	Knapton	330	-47	5.5	4.8	11.9
28.1m	Muschester	720		21.4	29	10.2
24.2m	Malgarve	140		4.5	3.1	15.2
22.7m	Herring	303	-1	3.0	2.9	12.7
1235.0m	Macdonald (Sons)	140	+51	8.40	4.4	7.7
22.0m	Maydon	116	-5	4.5	4.0	12.1
330.1m	Morgan	180	-5	2.1	1.3	12.1
704.6m	Mellor Bank	247	+12	7.0	2.8	14.4

Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET
(Change on week)

FT 30 Share
1599.8 (+32.80)

FT-SE 100
1979.2 (+17.70)

Bergains
46040 (50884)

USM (Datastream)
151.68 (+4.26)

THE POUND
(Change on week)

US dollar
1.5465 (+0.0170)

W German mark
2.8247 (+0.0303)

Trade-weighted
69.9 (+0.8)

US NOTEBOOK

Hopes for growth knocked

From Maxwell Newton
New York

The cheerful consensus forecast of 3 per cent real growth in 1987 is under serious challenge after January's sharply declining retail sales, flagging exports, buoyant imports, depressed car sales and falling commodity prices.

Deflation and stagnant economic growth are the order of the day — despite a report of a 0.7 increase in the new 1982-84 weighted consumer price index for January. This was mostly due to the large December-January leap in energy prices, since reversed to about 60 per cent of the previous rise.

After the Plaza II agreement in Paris, the stance of Mr Paul Volcker, the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, on the dollar has been greatly strengthened. Unlike Mr James Baker, the Treasury Secretary, he dislikes devaluation and prefers tight fiscal policy and disinflation.

He is getting the tighter fiscal policy as the growth of real Federal spending slows to zero. Indeed, Morgan Stanley has just produced a thoughtful study underlining the Fed's dilemma in the new world of contracting fiscal stimulus. The Fed has the tricky task of combining moderate economic growth with a major improvement in the current account balance of payments deficit and continuing low inflation. There is also the need to avoid a banking crash through the effects of tighter money (needed for balance of payments strength) on Third World debtors and depreciable domestic energy and agricultural markets.

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Court case over £5.2m mystery

Guinness acts on Jersey link

By Lawrence Lever

The Guinness investigation has intensified with Mr Ernest Saunders, the former chairman and chief executive, being interviewed by the Department of Trade and Industry inspectors on his role in the £2.5 billion takeover of Distillers.

At the same time, Guinness has started legal action in Jersey to uncover the truth behind a mystery £5.2 million payment authorized by Mr Saunders. The money was paid to a Jersey nominee company after Guinness won control of Distillers last year.

Senior Guinness executives are meeting today to discuss the legal action. Guinness is believed to consider that penetrating the secrecy behind the Jersey payment will unlock other mystery payments made to unidentified parties via Swiss nominee companies.

The legal action in Jersey also makes National Westminster Bank a co-defendant since the £5.2 million was paid through its Broad Street branch at St Helier.

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pany, Marketing and Acquisition Consultants (MAC). The injunction also seeks to force NatWest to release details of any payments made from the bank account.

Legal documents filed with the court late on Friday claim the nominee company did not provide any services and that an invoice relating to the payment "concealed the true nature of the payment".

Sir Norman Macfarlane, the Guinness chairman, has said the payments form part of £25 million worth of mystery invoices for which the company has no satisfactory explanation.

The MAC invoice states the £5.2 million payment was for "advice in relation to strategy and execution in respect of the successful acquisition of Distillers".

Mr Olivier Roux, the former Guinness finance director, and Mr Thomas Ward, the American lawyer asked to resign his directorship of Guinness, instigated the payment with Mr Saunders.

Guinness sources believe the Jersey company is somehow linked to Mr Ward, who has not responded to the

request for his resignation.

The legal action has been placed on the "pending list" in the Jersey courts, giving NatWest and the officers of the nominee company until Friday to respond to the allegations.

Meanwhile, details of the information given by Mr Saunders in his interview with the DTI inspectors have not emerged. Mr Saunders has not resigned as a Guinness director, even though the board requested his resignation when it dismissed him as chairman and chief executive.

The price of Guinness shares has risen sharply over the past few weeks, more than recouping the hundreds of millions of pounds wiped off its stock market value by the DTI inquiry.

One reason for the sudden price rise of more than 70p is speculation that a takeover bid may be launched for Guinness. The brewer has ruled out one potential candidate — the American Anheuser-Busch Brewing group, which owns the Budweiser brand. It confirmed last Friday that it was not interested in bidding.

Tax cuts snag in early poll

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

The Prime Minister has been advised that tax cuts in March 17's Budget might not reach the pockets of voters by the time of a spring election.

The delay between announcing tax cuts and implementing them is another factor, weighing against an early appeal to the country in the wake of the Greenwich by-election.

On past form, it takes the Inland Revenue about nine weeks to issue new coding notices and circulate new tax tables to employers. That would imply tax cuts would come into pay packets on the first pay day after May 18 — too late for a general election timed to coincide with the local elections on May 7.

Changes in the basic rate, higher rates and tax thresholds all take the same length of time to implement. This year the process could be slightly faster than in the past now that most of the country's pay

as you earn codings are computerised, but any additional complications in the proposals would be likely to extend the implementation period.

How fast any increase in the ceiling for mortgage interest relief could be brought into effect depends on the lenders. Since the ceiling was last raised in 1983 the system has been changed so that mortgage payments are now made net of tax relief.

An early election might even force the Government to drop its Finance Bill altogether and substitute a simple piece of legislation, to enable taxes to continue to be collected.

As the agreement of the Opposition would probably be essential to rush through any Bill, few of the Budget's more complicated or politically attractive measures would be likely to survive.

Warning on 'biased training'

By Anne Warden

The Government's support for engineering training is too heavily biased towards information technology, according to six leading companies, including Jaguar, Rolls-Royce and British Aerospace.

Their views will be put to Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, at a meeting on Wednesday.

The companies, which also include Tube Investments, Philips Electronics and Lucas, say more funds should be earmarked for manufacturing systems engineering, the area on which Japan has built its success in industries such as motor cycles and cameras.

There is a 60 per cent shortfall of engineering graduates, the report, prepared by the companies and the Engineering Council, says.

That is after taking into account the extra 1,700 graduates expected from the Government's £43 million engineering and technology programme to create more higher education places, which was begun in 1985, it adds.

The report, to be presented by Dr Kenneth Miller, the council's director-general,



Baker: funds needed for manufacturing engineering

says new funds for engineering training tied to manufacturing needs should be in addition to those already set aside for information technology work.

The companies want more broadly-based undergraduate courses to foster expertise in integrating design and manufacture.

Dr Miller said on Friday: "That is the reason why Japan has utterly cleaned up some markets. We are so far behind. There are very few people with that sort of background."

Pay fight looms at NEDC

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The Government's new drive to persuade industry to abandon national pay bargaining will surface again this week — amid TUC protests — at the monthly meeting of the National Economic Development Council.

The tripartite council, to be chaired for the first time in five years by Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, is scheduled to spend most of the meeting discussing pay in the 1980s, the labour market and unemployment — issues that are bound to cause a clash.

The Confederation of British Industry has been lukewarm over the Government's proposals for the abandonment of national pay awards.

Mr David Nickson, the CBI president, will present a paper to the council that will back the Government in many of its aspirations for pay to be closely tied to performance and ability of companies to afford rises, but studiously avoids any detailed reference to regional pay differentials.

The Government's radical plan was unveiled last month by Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Paymaster General and Minister for Employment, and will be explained at the NEDC by Lord Young, the Employment Secretary. The hope is that more jobs would be created in the depressed areas if employers were able to pay lower rates than agreed nationally, and thus ease the growing friction over the north-south divide.

The TUC's own report on national pay bargaining says that it allows for flexibility in earnings and that its retention was approved by unions and

employers as a factor in creating stable industrial relations.

Union leaders have maintained that private-sector national bargaining takes account of the means of the least profitable companies, not the most profitable, and provides the basis for equitable pay structures.

Meanwhile, The British Institute of Management has called into question the benefits of profit-sharing schemes, one of the main planks of the Government's pay proposals.

Mr John Leopold, lecturer in industrial relations at the University of Stirling, says in an article in the BIM's *Employment Bulletin* that despite the rapid growth in recent years of profit sharing, "such schemes do not appear to have increased significantly

either the share capital owned by employees or the amount of remuneration tied to profits, except in the case of executive share options.

A Glasgow University survey showed that more than three-quarters of 231 companies with schemes had transferred less than 2 per cent of their share capital to employees and more than half the companies had transferred less than 1 per cent.

On average, 23 per cent of employees participated in schemes to buy shares under save-as-you-earn plans.

Mr Leopold says that by August last year, 577 Inland Revenue-approved profit-sharing schemes had been established and 553 for buying share options through save-as-you-earn.



Holding out for a higher offer: Brian Kerner of Underwoods

Bid talks hitch for Woolworth

By Our City Staff

Woolworth Holdings yesterday confirmed it had been in bid talks with Underwoods, the retail chemist chain. The discussions were interrupted by a sudden rise in Underwoods' share price last Friday.

A Woolworth spokesman said the two companies had been holding "exploratory discussions" and that these had been "unexpectedly interrupted by share price movement at Underwoods."

The spokesman added that no agreement was reached and Woolworth "was not prepared to comment on the prospect of further discussions."

The sudden rise in Underwoods' share price — up 49p to a high of 237p — precipitated a statement from Underwoods on Friday saying it was in "preliminary discussions with a third party, which may or may not lead to an offer for the company."

The two parties have been talking for several weeks about the possibility of Woolworth buying Underwoods, which was floated in October 1985 with a stock market valuation of £49 million.

However, they hit a stumbling block on price. Woolworth is understood to have offered £55 million for Underwoods.

The two key Underwoods directors who hold more than 50 per cent of the company wanted a higher offer. Only then would they recommend the offer to the other shareholders.

Mr Harry Woolf, the chairman, holds 33.7 per cent of the company, while Mr Brian Kerner, the managing director, has more than 17 per cent.

The Underwoods directors have drawn comparisons with the £43 million purchase of the Our Price record shop chain by WH Smith, where the exit price earnings ratio was about 33. Woolworth is understood to refuse contemplating paying such a high multiple for Underwoods.

There were indications last night that the two sides might reach a compromise on the price — thereby allowing the deal to proceed.

The theme of the negotiations between the two companies is that Underwoods is a growth company which could expand independently. However, with Woolworth's backing, Underwoods' growth rate could be considerably accelerated.

Negotiations are believed to have highlighted three principal ways in which the two companies could combine.

First, the Underwoods chemist outlets could be incorporated within the larger Woolworth stores.

And some smaller Woolworth units could be converted into Underwoods outlets and new sites acquired in shopping precincts could incorporate sufficient space for a Woolworth and Underwoods unit to operate side by side.

Avana steps up RHM bid battle

By Ray Heath

The fight against the £262 million takeover bid launched by Ranks Hovis McDougall for Avana on February 6 begins in earnest this week when the Welsh baking group unleashes its first defence document.

This is expected to argue that the profits plateau on which the company appears to be stranded, is a temporary flattening out of its impressive long-term growth. In the three years to end-March 1986, the company's profits showed an overall gain of less than £3 million to £19.6 million. But Dr John Randall, Avana's independently minded chairman, will argue that while there was not much activity on the profit and loss account compared with previous spectacular growth, there was a lot of action in the group's investment programme, the results of which will soon start to be felt.

Dr Randall is believed to have been advised not to include a profits forecast in this week's defence, but to keep it for a later round in what is expected to be a long contest.

The absence of a forecast could also indicate that the investment programme is still not driving profits back upwards. Some analysts have already reduced their estimates from about £22 million for the year to end-March to closer to £20 million, although there are also estimates of about £27 million in 1988.

The defence document could fill in the still sketchy details of the £28 million food park which Avana wants to develop in Wales, if given grants by the Welsh Office,

which is expected to announce its decision tomorrow.

Avana's tactics are expected to resemble those successfully employed by Pilkington Brothers when it fought off BTR. As well as pointing out that Avana is about to benefit from investment in research and development, the company is believed to be trying to muster support from MPs in whose constituencies it has factories, on the grounds that Avana has given warnings of redundancies among the 4,500 workforce if it takes over.

Meanwhile, Avana shares, at 732p, remain well below RHM's 751p offer.

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Hong Kong rates rise

From Stephen Leather, Hong Kong

Hong Kong's banks are raising their prime rates by one percentage point to 6 per cent today.

The rate was dropped from 6.5 per cent to 5 per cent — a ten-year low — on January 15 after the Hong Kong dollar came under severe upward pressure from currency speculators.

The Hong Kong dollar is linked to the US dollar at a rate of HK\$7.80 to US\$1.

Speculators were gambling that the link would be cut as the American currency weakened.

The pressure is off the Hong Kong dollar after the Financial Secretary, Mr Piers Jacob, said last week in his Budget speech that the link would not be changed.

The Hong Kong Association of Banks said its decision to cut the rate reflected higher inter-bank rates

A mortgage for life's little ups and downs.

Wouldn't it be marvellous if you could choose how much you pay each month in mortgage repayment? It is possible. John Charcol's new flexible mortgage is quite unique.

It combines the advantages of a fixed interest/floating interest mortgage with the possibility of reducing the monthly payment without prior notice.

Unlike other mortgages, which either have a fixed interest rate or one that floats up and down depending on the market, our new mortgage gives you a choice.

You may opt for a floating rate and then change your mortgage to a fixed rate at a month's notice. More interesting, you may opt to defer up to 30% of the payments whenever you wish.

This means you can choose to pay less if the interest rate rises. Or if your other commitments rise.

If your other expenses come down, or your income climbs temporarily you may opt to pay more.

Our new mortgage is available to everyone who is looking to borrow between £15,001 and £250,000, up to 3.5 times a single income.

It is available to purchase properties up to 100% of their value, although sums up to 70% can be borrowed without a status enquiry.

In short, if your income is flexible, if your outgoings are flexible, if you just don't know enough about your future earnings, or even if you just don't want to be tied down to a fixed monthly repayment, then our new mortgage is for you.

Telephone us on 01-559 7080 to make an appointment or for written details.

John Charcol
INDEPENDENT MORTGAGE BROKERS

Mercury House, 195 Knightsbridge, London SW7 1RE. Tel: 01-559 7080.

BOARD MEETINGS

● **TODAY** — Interims: Astra Industrial Holdings, Coronation Syndicate, Ernest Green & Partners, Space Planning Services, Trade Promotions Services, Twelffontein United Collieries, Finals: Channel Islands and International Investment Trust, Jensens Drilling, Palma Group, Rights and Issues Investment Trust, Task Force.

● **TOMORROW** — Interims: AMS Industries, Britannia Security Group, S Casker (Holdings), William Sinclair, Finals: Allied Plant Group, Blagden Industries, British Kidney Patient Association Investment Trust (amended), Commercial Bank of the Near East, John Crowther Group, Dares Estates, Dean & Bowes Group, Fisons, Fleming Mercantile Investment Trust, Frogmore Estates, Johnstone's Paint, Microvitec, Mount Charlotte Investments, Newage Transmissions, Provident Financial Group, Save & Prosper Gold Fund, STC.

UK asked to pipe supplies across sea

Irish want British gas

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The Irish gas board, which is in dispute with Marathon Petroleum Ireland, its gas supplier, over the terms of its contract, is attempting to persuade British Gas to build a pipeline across the Irish Sea that would give Irish consumers access to the corporation's national grid.

It is, however, understood that British Gas is unlikely to agree to the project.

The resolution of the two issues and the security of gas supplies in Ireland could provide the new Irish government with one of its first major problems.

British Gas needs all available output from the North Sea and its own Morcambe Bay gas fields to meet demand in the United Kingdom. Thus

it is unlikely to become involved in the political debate that would follow such a project.

The corporation has refused to comment on the proposals but it is understood that the Irish board (Bord Gas) has paid the British Gas consultancy service a substantial fee to investigate proposals to build pipelines on three routes. They are from South Wales to Waterford, from North Wales to Dublin and from Barrow-in-Furness to Dublin.

British Gas is understood to have reported on the technical feasibility of the proposals, but has stressed that it cannot comment on the political implications or the financial aspects of the proposals.

Whitehall has already ve-

toed an extension of the existing natural gas grid system to Ireland into Ulster.

British Gas, which has moved into the private sector since Bord Gas requested the study, wants in any case to ensure that new gas contracts will be used for UK consumption.

Many of the corporation's original gas contracts from the North Sea are being replaced by contracts which give the oil companies operating in the North Sea a higher price for their gas.

Although many of these contracts are linked to the world oil price, British Gas has no room for manoeuvre in cutting prices or taking on a large number of new customers from a cross-sea link.

Whitehall has already ve-



Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

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Court case over £5.2m mystery

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By Lawrence Lever

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Guinness sources believe the Jersey company is somehow linked to Mr Ward, who has not responded to the

request for his resignation.

The legal action has been placed on the "pending list" in the Jersey courts, giving NatWest and the officers of the nominee company until Friday to respond to the allegations.

Meanwhile, details of the information given by Mr Saunders in his interview with the DTI inspectors have not emerged. Mr Saunders has not resigned as a Guinness director, even though the board requested his resignation when it dismissed him as chairman and chief executive.

The price of Guinness shares has risen sharply over the past few weeks, more than recouping the hundreds of millions of pounds wiped off its stock market value by the DTI inquiry.

One reason for the sudden price rise of more than 70p is speculation that a takeover bid may be launched for Guinness. The brewer has ruled out one potential candidate — the American Anheuser-Busch brewing group, which owns the Budweiser brand. It confirmed last Friday that it was not interested in bidding.

Tax cuts snag in early poll

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

The Prime Minister has been advised that tax cuts in March 17's Budget might not reach the pockets of voters by the time of a spring election.

The delay between announcing tax cuts and implementing them is another factor weighing against an early appeal to the country in the wake of the Greenway by-election.

On past form, it takes the Inland Revenue about nine weeks to issue new coding notices and circulate new tax tables to employers. That would imply tax cuts would come into pay packets on the first pay day after May 18 — too late for a general election timed to coincide with the local elections on May 7.

Changes in the basic rate, higher rates and tax thresholds all take the same length of time to implement. This year the process could be slightly faster than in the past, now that most of the country's pay

as you earn, codings are computerised, but any additional complications in the proposals would be likely to extend the implementation period.

How fast any increase in the ceiling for mortgage interest relief could be brought into effect depends on the leaders. Since the ceiling was last raised in 1983 the system has been changed so that mortgage payments are now made net of tax relief.

An early election might even force the Government to drop its Finance Bill altogether and substitute a simple piece of legislation to enable taxes to continue to be collected.

As the agreement of the Opposition would probably be essential to rush through any Bill, few of the Budget's more complicated or politically contentious measures would be likely to survive.

Warning on 'biased training'

By Anne Warden

The Government's support for engineering training is too heavily biased towards information technology, according to six leading companies, including Jaguar, Rolls-Royce and British Aerospace.

Their views will be put to Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, at a meeting on Wednesday.

The companies, which also include Tube Investments, Philips Electronics and Lucas, say more funds should be earmarked for manufacturing systems engineering, the area on which Japan has built its success in industries such as motor cycles and cameras.

There is a 60 per cent shortfall of engineering graduates, the report, prepared by the companies and the Engineering Council, says.

That is after taking into account the extra 1,700 graduates expected from the Government's £43 million engineering and technology programme to create more higher education places, which was begun in 1985, it adds.

The report, to be presented by Dr Kenneth Miller, the council's director-general,



Baker: funds needed for manufacturing engineering

says new funds for engineering training tied to manufacturing needs should be in addition to those already set aside for information technology work.

The companies want more broadly-based undergraduate courses to foster expertise in integrating design and manufacture.

Dr Miller said on Friday: "That is the reason why Japan has utterly cleaned up some markets. We are so far behind. There are very few people with that sort of background."

Pay fight looms at NEDC

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The Government's new drive to persuade industry to abandon national pay bargaining will surface again this week — amid TUC protests — at the monthly meeting of the National Economic Development Council.

The tripartite council, to be chaired for the first time in five years by Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, is scheduled to spend most of the meeting discussing pay in the 1980s, the labour market and unemployment — issues that are bound to cause a clash.

The Confederation of British Industry has been lukewarm over the Government's proposals for the abandonment of national pay awards.

Mr David Nickson, the CBI president, will present a paper to the council that will back the Government in many of

its aspirations for pay to be closely tied to performance and ability of companies to afford rises, but studiously avoids any detailed reference to regional pay differentials.

The Government's radical plan was unveiled last month by Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Paymaster General and Minister for Employment, and will be explained at the NEDC by Lord Young, the Employment Secretary. The hope is that more jobs would be created in the depressed areas if employers were able to pay lower rates than agreed nationally, and thus ease the growing friction over the north-south divide.

The TUC's own report on national pay bargaining says that it allows for flexibility in earnings and that its retention was approved by unions and

employers as a factor in creating stable industrial relations.

Union leaders have maintained that private-sector national bargaining takes account of the means of the least profitable companies, not the most profitable, and provides the basis for equitable pay structures.

Meanwhile, the British Institute of Management has called into question the benefits of profit-sharing schemes, one of the main planks of the Government's pay proposals.

Mr John Leopold, lecturer in industrial relations at the University of Stirling, says in an article in the BIM's *Employment Bulletin* that despite the rapid growth in recent years of profit sharing, "such schemes do not appear to have increased significantly

either the share capital owned by employees or the amount of remuneration tied to profit, except in the case of executive share options.

A Glasgow University survey showed that more than three-quarters of 231 companies with schemes had transferred less than 2 per cent of their share capital to employees and more than half the companies had transferred less than 1 per cent.

On average, 23 per cent of employees participated in schemes to buy shares under save-as-you-earn plans.

Mr Leopold says that by August last year, 577 Inland Revenue-approved profit-sharing schemes had been established and 553 for buying share options through save-as-you-earn.



Holding out for a higher offer: Brian Kerner of Underwoods

Bid talks hitch for Woolworth

By Our City Staff

Woolworth Holdings yesterday confirmed it had been in bid talks with Underwoods, the retail chemist chain. The discussions were interrupted by a sudden rise in Underwoods' share price last Friday.

A Woolworth spokesman said the two companies had been holding "exploratory discussions" and that these had been "unexpectedly interrupted by share price movement at Underwoods."

The spokesman added that no agreement was reached and Woolworth "was not prepared to comment on the prospect of further discussions."

The sudden rise in Underwoods' share price — up 49p to a high of 237p — precipitated a statement from Underwoods on Friday saying it was in "preliminary discussions with a third party, which may or may not lead to an offer for the company."

The two parties have been talking for several weeks about the possibility of Woolworth buying Underwoods, which was floated in October 1985 with a stock market valuation of £49 million.

However, they hit a stumbling block on price. Woolworth is understood to have offered £55 million for Underwoods.

The two key Underwoods directors who hold more than 50 per cent of the company wanted a higher offer. Only then would they recommend the offer to the other shareholders.

Mr Harry Woolf, the chairman, holds 33.7 per cent of the company, while Mr Brian Kerner, the managing director, has more than 17 per cent.

The Underwoods directors have drawn comparisons with the £43 million purchase of the Our Price record shop chain by WH Smith, where the exit price earnings ratio was about 33. Woolworth is understood to refuse contemplating paying such a high multiple for Underwoods.

There were indications last night that the two sides might reach a compromise on the price — thereby allowing the deal to proceed.

The theme of the negotiations between the two companies is that Underwoods is a growth company which could expand independently. However, with Woolworth's backing, Underwoods' growth rate could be considerably accelerated.

Negotiations are believed to have highlighted three principal ways in which the two companies could combine.

First, the Underwoods chemist outlets could be incorporated within the larger Woolworth stores.

And some smaller Woolworth units could be converted into Underwoods outlets and new sites acquired in shopping precincts could incorporate sufficient space for a Woolworth and Underwoods unit to operate side by side.

Avana steps up RHM bid battle

By Ray Heath

The fight against the £262 million takeover bid launched by Ranks Hovis McDougall for Avana on February 6 begins in earnest this week when the Welsh baking group unleashes its first defence document.

This is expected to argue that the profits plateau on which the company appears to be stranded, is a temporary flattening out of its impressive long-term growth. In the three years to end-March 1986, the company's profits showed an overall gain of less than £3 million to £19.6 million. But Dr John Randall, Avana's independently minded chairman, will argue that while there was not much activity on the profit and loss account compared with previous spectacular growth, there was a lot of action in the group's investment programme, the results of which will soon start to be felt.

Dr Randall is believed to have been advised not to include a profits forecast in this week's defence, but to keep it for a later round in what is expected to be a long contest.

The absence of a forecast could also indicate that the investment programme is still not driving profits back upwards. Some analysts have already reduced their estimates from about £22 million for the year to end-March to closer to £20 million, although there are also estimates of about £27 million in 1988.

The defence document could fill in the still sketchy details of the £28 million food park which Avana wants to develop in Wales, if given grants by the Welsh Office,

which is expected to announce its decision tomorrow.

Avana's tactics are expected to resemble those successfully employed by Pilkington Brothers when it fought off BTR. As well as pointing out that Avana is about to benefit from investment in research and development, the company is believed to be trying to muster support from MPs in whose constituencies it has factories, on the grounds that RHM has given warning of redundancies among the 4,500 workforce if it takes over.

Meanwhile, Avana shares, at 732p, remain well below RHM's 751p offer.

City diary, page 21

Hong Kong rates rise

From Stephen Leather, Hong Kong

Hong Kong's banks are raising their prime rates by one percentage point to 6 per cent today.

The rate was dropped from 6.5 per cent to 5 per cent — a ten-year low — on January 15 after the Hong Kong dollar came under severe upward pressure from currency speculators.

The Hong Kong dollar is linked to the US dollar at a rate of HK\$7.80 to US\$1.

Speculators were gambling that the link would be cut as the American currency weakened.

The pressure is off the Hong Kong dollar after the Financial Secretary, Mr Piers Jacob, said last week in his Budget speech that the link would not be changed.

The Hong Kong Association of Banks said its decision to cut the rate reflected higher inter-bank rates

A mortgage for life's little ups and downs.

Wouldn't it be marvellous if you could choose how much you pay each month in mortgage repayment? It is possible. John Charcol's new flexible mortgage is quite unique.

It combines the advantages of a fixed interest floating interest mortgage with the possibility of reducing the monthly payment without prior notice.

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Our new mortgage is available to everyone who is looking to borrow between £15,000 and £250,000, up to 3.5 times a single income.

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Lawson 'has scope to hit 25p target'

By Our City Staff

The Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, could have scope to cut the basic rate of income tax by 4p to his target rate of 25p in the Budget.

The latest estimates from Goldman Sachs, the investment bankers, predict a scope for tax cuts of at least £4.5 billion to £5 billion. As a cost to the revenue of £1.1 billion for each 1p off the basic rate in the first year, that would allow Mr Lawson to achieve his 25p target with a bit to spare.

The consensus in the City is that the Chancellor will not use all his scope for adjustment to cut taxes, but will also cut government borrowing.

Goldman Sachs, for instance, expects him to cut taxes by about £3½ billion, including a 2p cut in the basic rate, and to cut the public sector borrowing requirement by about £1½ billion.

But with the scope for adjustment as high as £5 billion, he could trim income tax to 25p and still cut something off borrowing.

A Budget plea to have the special car tax abolished has been repeated by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

The effect of the special tax is to raise the total tax on new cars sold in Britain to 24.6 per cent compared with the normal VAT rate of 15 per cent.

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Oil likely to fall further

By Our City Staff

Downward pressure on world oil prices is expected to continue this week, cutting North Sea tax revenues in the run-up to the Budget and increasing pressure on the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to call an emergency meeting.

The spot price for North Sea oil is now hovering just above \$16 a barrel, but US traders said yesterday prices there could fall further this week and bring down further the cost of oil.

The pressure has been caused by uncertainty over Opec's ability to keep to its 15.8 million barrels-a-day output level.

UK asked to pipe supplies across sea

Irish want British gas

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The Irish gas board, which is in dispute with Marathon Petroleum Ireland, its gas supplier, over the terms of its contract, is attempting to persuade British Gas to build a pipeline across the Irish Sea that would give Irish consumers access to the corporation's national grid.

It is, however, understood that British Gas is unlikely to agree to the project.

The resolution of the two issues and the security of gas supplies in Ireland could provide the new Irish government with one of its first major problems.

British Gas needs all available output from the North Sea and its own Morcambe Bay gas fields to meet demand in the United Kingdom. Thus

it is unlikely to become involved in the political debate that would follow such a project.

The corporation has refused to comment on the proposals but it is understood that the Irish board (Bord Gas) has paid the British Gas consultancy service a substantial fee to investigate proposals to build pipelines on three routes. They are from South Wales to Waterford, from North Wales to Dublin and from Barrow-in-Furness to Dublin.

British Gas is understood to have reported on the technical feasibility of the proposals, but has stressed that it cannot comment on the political implications or the financial aspects of the proposals.

Whitehall has already ve-

ted an extension of the existing national gas grid system in Ireland into Ulster.

British Gas, which has moved into the private sector since Bord Gas requested the study, wants in any case to ensure that new gas contracts will be used for UK consumption.

Many of the corporation's original gas contracts from the North Sea are being replaced by contracts which give the oil companies operating in the North Sea a higher price for their gas.

Although many of these contracts are linked to the world oil price, British Gas has no room for manoeuvre in cutting prices or taking on a larger number of new customers from a cross-sea link.

BOARD MEETINGS

● **TODAY** — Interims: Astra Industrial Holdings, Corona Syndicate, Ernest Green & Partners, Space Planning Services, Trade Promotions Services, Twefontein United Collieries, Finals: Channel Islands and International Investment Trust, Jebens Drilling, Palma Group, Rights and Issues Investment Trust, Task Force.

● **TOMORROW** — Interims: AMS Industries, Britannia Security Group, S Casket (Holdings), William Sinclair, Finals: Allied Plant Group, Blagden Industries, British Kidney Patient Association, Investment Trust (amended), Commercial Bank of the Near East, John Crowther Group, Dares Estates, Dean & Bowes Group, Fisons, Fleming Mercantile Investment Trust, Frongmore Estates, Johnstone's Paint, Microvitec, Mount Charlotte Investments, Newage Transmissions, Provident & Financial Group, Save & Prosper Gold Fund, STC.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Hunting the hunters

ANZ Merchant Bank, parent company of Capel-Cure Myers, the stockbroker, is, I hear, considering legal action against rival broker Wood Mackenzie. During the past week, Wood Mackenzie signed up 11 of CCM's prestigious smaller companies team and ANZ is now examining the possibility of suing both Wood Mackenzie and one or more of the individuals involved for "inducement". Last week CCM "dismissed" its director — and former partner — Roun "Rags" Simmonds after it was revealed that he was also considering an offer from Wood Mac. Rags Simmonds had been with CCM for 12 years. Because of an agreement he signed with ANZ Bank when it bought CCM, he is prevented from joining Wood Mac immediately but is expected to do so in about six months' time. It is not the first time Wood Mackenzie has taken on CCM staff. Two years ago, five members of its retail team, led by top stores analyst John Richards, moved across to the Scottish firm, along with a corporate finance man.



Prestige first

Jaguar owners in the City are becoming a little concerned that their cars are too cheap — and some are even calling for a price increase. "They're starting to lose their prestige," said one stockbroker, "they're going to have to put their prices up." At £16,500 for a 2.9 litre Jaguar XJ6, with luxuries like electric windows and mirrors, and on-board computers, the Jaguar is now cheaper than the top Rover Sterling, the Granada Scorpio and — horror of horrors — it costs only a few hundred pounds more than a Toyota. "The new Jaguar will start selling in the US in April, at \$40,000. Its nearest competitor there, the Mercedes 280SE, starts at \$60,000," said another worried broker. "They're just too cheap." Given that most Jaguar-owning brokers are also owners of Jaguar shares, such a move would, no doubt, be doubly beneficial.

Floor flutter

Stock Exchange members will have an excuse to visit the floor of the Exchange again today — if only to buy their tickets for the traditional Grand National draw. Veteran charity man Tony Jenkins, of merchant bank Guinness Peat, will begin the mammoth task of selling 30,000 tickets for the draw, at £2 each, from box E59 on the ground floor of the Exchange. The box will be open every day this week, from 10am until 3pm, and the draw will take place on March 23, ready for the big race on April 4. The first of several prizes will, if all tickets are sold, be £4,000, and at least 10 per cent of the proceeds will go to charity.

For the jet-setting businessman who has everything — a collapsible, multi-purpose golf club. The Super Stick, made by a Petersfield firm called Acma, claims to do the work of 17 ordinary clubs — its face can be adjusted to 17 settings from a one-iron to a chipper and the swing and toe-heel weights can also be altered. It weighs just 530 gms, folds down from 38ins to 24ins and sells for £69. And there are only 253 shopping days to Christmas.

Sweet music

Robert Randall, aged 23, son of Dr John Randall, chairman of Welsh cake and jam manufacturer Avana, has done his bit to keep the firm out of the clutches of hostile bidder RHM Group. Robert, studying at the University of Wales to become a teacher, has recorded a song "So good is it, it has been played by the BBC, on Radio Wales.

Exchange rate

The day after National Westminster Bank declared profits of over £1 billion, a colleague rang his branch to complain that money he had remitted to Spain had not arrived there after two weeks. An employee in the foreign exchange department told him: "We can't ring Madrid, it would cost too much money."

Carol Leonard

ANALYSIS

Rising yen opens gates to capital outflows

Foreign asset holdings by Japanese institutions could double in the next few years as deregulation opens new avenues for investment

The explosion in the volume of Japanese investment overseas has been perhaps the most striking feature of world financial markets in the past two years.

Since 1984, when the outflow was \$27 billion (£18 billion) a year, Japanese portfolio investment overseas has risen fourfold to an annual rate of outflow of \$112 billion. By far the biggest proportion of the funds available for overseas investment has been in bonds. But overseas equities have become increasingly attractive to Japanese investors as foreign bond yields have fallen and the Japanese stock market has risen ever higher. The average price earnings ratio of Japanese shares is 55 times compared with only 14 times for British shares.

The overvaluation of the yen should prove to be the biggest spur to overseas investment. By almost any measure of relative competitiveness, the yen is overvalued, not only against the US dollar, the Korean won and the Taiwanese dollar, but also against the mark. This is seriously impacting Japan's ability to compete overseas in many of its traditional areas of strength. Large sections of its industry, particularly in steel manufacture and engineering, are being rationalized, resulting in unemployment, the newest Japanese phenomenon.

However, it also makes overseas portfolio investment very attractive. The Japanese authorities' first move to restrain the yen's appreciation has been to lift constraints on capital outflows. Any institution can now invest up to 30 per cent of its assets overseas, compared with only 15 per cent a year ago.

In the case of Japanese pension funds, their holdings of foreign assets have risen from 8 per cent to 10 per cent of total portfolios.

Mr W. Bischoff of Henry Schroder Wagg, the merchant bank, believes "this figure could double in the next few years."

More difficult to assess is the extent to which individuals will want to invest overseas.

Tax advantages have made certain types of bank deposit

the most popular of any savings medium among personal savers. Mr Bischoff believes that if proposals to remove the favourable tax treatment of these deposits are approved — given the strength of the yen — overseas mutual funds will be a very attractive alternative investment compared with many other savings vehicles for the Japanese.

Since the dollar began to weaken, personal savings have been pouring into foreign mutual funds. GT Management estimates that foreign-managed mutual funds sold in Japan amount to \$2.2 billion. Nearly all of these are invested in equities.

Some Tokkin account funds are also being managed by overseas fund managers, and the amounts invested overseas could increase dramatically if the rate of increase on the Tokyo stock market should slow.

As investment in equipment and inventory has fallen, surplus corporate funds have been invested in the portfolio investments. These funds are held in Tokkin accounts for two main reasons — they are anonymous and have tax advantages. Realized capital gains in Tokkin accounts are converted into income, swelling the reported profits of the parent company. The government is considering re-

moving some of the tax advantages of the Tokkin funds.

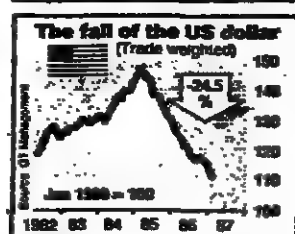
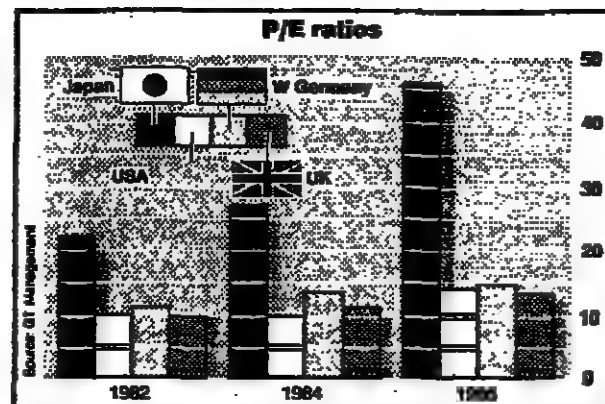
If it is perceived that big capital gains on the Tokyo market are a thing of the past, Tokkin funds, which tend to be highly mobile, could step up their investments in foreign markets where the earnings multiples are much lower, helping to bid up share prices overseas.

Withdrawal of some Tokkin funds will help to stabilize an overheated Tokyo stock exchange, whose meteoric rise has been at least partly due to the sheer weight of money. And the impact of surplus liquidity has been magnified by the small free float in a market where about 70 per cent of shares are in firm hands, in the shape of

crossholdings by Japanese companies in each other. Given the rate of outflow of funds, the total amount of Japanese money under foreign management is still small — between \$5 billion and \$7 billion. However, for individual fund management groups with a presence in Japan, even a small share of the action can be significant.

GT Management, for example, reckons it has nearly 10 per cent of funds under foreign management, or about \$400 million. And, assuming it receives its licence, it will be competing hard for new funds along with the other established names in Japan such as Jardine Fleming and MIM Britannia.

Carol Ferguson



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Carol Ferguson

UK financiers scramble for piece of Japanese action

British banks, brokers and fund managers are scrambling to enter Japanese financial markets. Gaining a significant share of any Japanese trade has always been next to impossible and financial markets are likely to prove to be no exception.

Bankers and brokers in particular could find the going tough because their Japanese counterparts, such as Nomura and Daiwa, are so big and powerful.

But there is perhaps more hope for fund managers. There exists a genuine niche market where overseas fund management companies can offer a

service where they have a competitive advantage.

Investing Japanese funds in overseas equities markets is perhaps best done by the overseas firms, which have a better understanding of their local markets than Japanese firms might have.

According to Mr David Lay, chairman of GT Management, Japan, the history of Japanese fund management and investment advice has on the whole been unspectacular and Japanese investors have had a poor service.

After a few domestic scandals in which some investors were defrauded, the Japanese government decided the in-

dustry needed to be regulated and legislation was passed in 1986.

Japan is, therefore, moving from an unregulated to a regulated environment, and British firms will be applying for licences to manage funds on a discretionary basis over the next few weeks.

The Japanese authorities are aware of the Bank of England's desire to promote the status of British firms, but many key questions about the application of the new laws to foreign firms will remain unanswered until negotiations with the Japanese Ministry of Finance are complete.

Carol Ferguson

GILT-EDGED

Threat of surging inflation is now easier to contain

While the equity market in London has continued to roar ahead in the last few weeks, fixed-interest securities have remained very subdued.

The yield gap between the two types of security has increased to 6½ per cent, but even that has failed to induce much of a response. Investors are confident that, with the economy enjoying a splendid boom, the growth of equity dividends will comfortably make up the difference.

Additionally, and for the pessimists, more importantly, there is a good deal of anxiety about the outlook for inflation. Government officials and consensus economists might take a sanguine view, but the cautious investor is not totally convinced.

He has seen realistic administrations like France and Hong Kong raise their official estimates for inflation in 1987, and he doubts that Britain can buck the international trend. Moreover, he has learned that it took him a long time to learn to distrust the Central Statistical Office's figures on real gross national product but, now that he routinely upgrades their estimates, there is an obvious and disturbing corollary for inflation.

One source of anxiety on this front concerns pay settlements. During the course of 1986, there seemed to be a slight moderation in the "going rate" — a grudging response to the better-than-expected figures for retail price inflation.

In the opening part of this year, however, the process is reported to have gone into reverse. The official figures cannot be taken at face value, of course, but it would be quite reasonable to suppose that the 1½ per cent acceleration in the retail price index is a set in the context of declining unemployment, strong profits, and only restrained overseas competition, would have prompted some slippage on the settlements side.

Admittedly, productivity advances are very good, but the pace of improvement is

unlikely to be rising. On the contrary, we are at that stage in the business cycle now (evidenced by stepped up recruitment programmes) when productivity gains are getting harder to achieve.

What this means is that unit labour costs, which were barely rising at all last autumn, might now be drifting up at 4 per cent a year. More worrying still, there is an implication that, left to their own devices, they would be increasing even more quickly by the year-end.

Compounding the labour cost problem is the commodities issue. The overall picture is somewhat confused, but nearly everywhere the tendency is towards firmness.

Last summer, the official index of input prices was showing a decline over the preceding twelve months of 10 per cent. Today, the comparable figure is just 3 per cent, and in the months which lie ahead it is fairly certain that it will move into positive territory.

Accordingly, what was acting as a very powerful depressant on the RPI last year, is currently having a fairly neutral effect, and will probably be a big contribution to rising prices later this year.

Finally, investors have a nagging anxiety about monetary conditions. It is true that credit has been extremely loose for a couple of years without inducing any very negative repercussions, but grey-haired investors cannot forget a somewhat comparable period in the early 1970s.

At that time too, it took a long time for inflation to manifest itself, but when the storm finally broke (albeit aided by a commodities scenario which finds no parallel in current conditions) it was a "Lulu".

It developed its own momentum because the easy money background ensured that costs and prices could easily be passed on. Companies could raise prices which then stuck because demand was so high, and

employees could get compensatory pay rises because of tightness in the labour market.

Loose money, with its corollary of a softening currency, even neutralized overseas competition. Where foreign suppliers had free access to the British market (those were the days when no one challenged the NUM), they had to put up their sterling prices continuously and that meant that local suppliers had little to fear from competition on this front.

Older investors would also remember that the escalating process was only halted by a monetary squeeze and that, for a while, the cure turned out to be worse than the disease. Insidious inflation seemed to erode the value of securities fairly slowly and in a predictable fashion; tight money gave rise to a straightforward bloodbath.

It would be wrong to take parallels too far. There are a number of important differences between the 1970s and the 1980s, the main one being that the economy is much more efficient these days.

Its capacity has been raised in purely technical terms as a consequence of the surge in productive investment which was financed by North Sea oil revenues, and its chances of achieving this enhanced potential have been massively improved as a result of the new authority accorded to managements.

Instead of demand continuously bumping up against a rigid capacity constraint, we now enjoy a flexible ceiling which can always squeeze out a little more. The benefits of this transition have manifested themselves in a variety of ways.

The non-oil overseas trade returns, for instance, are a good deal more satisfactory than they used to be. It has taken some observers of the scene a little longer than others to recognize the change, but apparently even the National Institute (the doyen of the pessimists during the last 10 years) is now convinced.

It shows up impressively as well in the Government's tax revenues. The flexible production schedules have generated substantial increases in incomes and spending throughout the community, and this in turn has filled the Exchequer's coffers to overflowing.

This is in stark contrast to the early 1970s, when the authorities had continuously to raise taxation to meet their earlier PSBR targets.

Perhaps the most important difference of all, as far as the gilt market is concerned, is that we start from a position in which real interest rates are already very high. Then, the margin over inflation was negligible and consequently any slippage on the retail price front necessitated a sizeable adjustment to gilt valuations.

Today, with the margin at a record high, the market is already discounting a substantial deterioration in regard to near-term inflation.

The key question then is whether there is enough of a cushion in current yields to protect gilts from the rising rate of inflation which will inevitably emerge as 1987 proceeds.

Our guess, for what it is worth, is that an early election (with the Tories being returned) will be sufficient of a morale booster to neutralize the danger. If deflation follows in 1988, there will be a drop in gilt prices, but not a savage one.

Indeed, once the froth has been blown off the top of economic activity, the genuine value of gilts will be very apparent.

It is only, in our view, if the election is long delayed, and if monetary excesses are taken to even greater extremes, that a big setback could be expected — and even then it would be small beer in relation to the traumas of the mid-1970s.

Roger Nightingale
The author is group economist at Hoare Gorton, the broker.

COMMENT

Spendthrift consumers crowd industry out

Costs, long-term investment and innovation in British industry are being hobbled by an interest rate handicap against our competitors. But can anything be done about it?

The Treasury has given up trying because the efforts of successive chancellors to earn relatively lower interest rates by fiscal prudence and cutting inflation have been frustrated in the foreign exchange markets. In the terms the currency markets worry about, money supply growth is still perennially straining to burst its targets and behind that, credit-hungry consumer spending threatens rising inflation or a fast-worsening trade deficit. In those macro-economic terms, the Chancellor's response should be to tighten fiscal policy further to stop the economy overheating. But there is little reason to think a tighter Budget would, of itself, magically prick the money and credit boom without high interest rates or throwing recovery into reverse.

The underlying problem is less one of economic management than of the structure of the markets for savings and investment. In overall economic terms, Britain has consistently saved (and hence invested) a smaller proportion of output than the world average for industrial countries or even for the leading European economies. Since we are doing this at high interest rates, it seems more a problem of savings than lack of investment opportunities. Higher interest rates are needed to stimulate enough savings and choke off investment to balance supply and demand for funds.

The immediate cause is not hard to find. British consumers are on average, inclined to borrow more and save less. Outstanding debts of the personal sector have grown from 45 per cent of disposable incomes in 1980 to some 80 per cent in 1986. And the ratio of personal debts to assets has on average nearly doubled in a decade. Consumers, not the Chancellor, are crowding industry out.

The credit card revolution is one cause. Plastic could usefully be taxed. But it would be facile to put too much emphasis on that. Mortgage borrowing accounts for about 70 per cent of personal debts and that proportion has remained constant.

There are positive reasons behind this trend. Those in work who can afford to borrow are more confident of their future income, and stable prices. The growth of home ownership — and even wider share ownership — has spread wealth and made more people more creditworthy.

Instead of the poor saving and the rich having overdrafts, as used to be the case, most people in jobs are now like the old wealthy middle classes. But, as so often, the harmless perks of the few become a menace when the many try to enjoy them.

But this could not have happened if financial markets, credit and mortgage regulations had not been progressively liberalized. Despite occasional Bank of England warnings to exercise prudence, banks and building societies are freer than ever to lend and compete.

It is not easy to reverse this double-sided trend without losing all the benefits it has brought. To see the future, it is only necessary to look to the United States, where consumer credit as a whole has gone much further than in Britain.

It is no coincidence — however inconvenient that may be for the financial services industry — that Japan and West Germany, the countries with the most enviable economic performances, have had the most shackled banks and most controlled savings markets. Now Japan, under strong pressure from the US and Europe, is gradually liberalizing the world role of the yen and removing the tax privileges to personal saving precisely to come into line with the populations of less thrifty countries. This is perhaps the most damaging concession Japan has made.

Lord Vinson, a champion of free markets, is sufficiently worried to have suggested tightening quantitative controls on credit as a lesser evil than high interest rates. But the problem is a long-term one of changing behaviour and history shows that long-term controls simply breed other distortions or damage competition.

The trend is so forceful that some of those most keenly worried have concluded that nothing can be done and we shall have to accept higher money costs.

Introducing just the sort of tax benefits for saving that Japan is currently abolishing might do the trick, but would inevitably push up income tax rates.

Short of that, we might look at the mismatch of saving and borrowing. Even young Britons save quite a lot in pension funds and mortgage repayments, but their savings are concentrated in a totally illiquid form, unlike the Japanese consumers' bank accounts. They can be borrowed against but cannot be seen as revolving savings to fund consumer purchases. And tax allowances on mortgage borrowing suck savings artificially into the housing market, funding higher land prices rather than benefiting first-time buyers. The first targets for reform should therefore be aid to home ownership, which needs to be more accurately targeted, and the tax bias in favour of illiquid institutional savings, which, despite good intentions, has hardly been touched.

Graham Searjeant

Financial Editor

COMPANY NEWS

• TAYLOR WOODROW: A subsidiary, Taylor Woodrow Property, has sold its long leasehold interest in Westgate House, at 25-27 Market Street, Halifax, West Yorkshire, to FR Evans of Leeds, for £1.7 million.

• HAZLEWOOD FOODS: The company has bought Cadec. The consideration was the allotment of 1.95 million new ordinary shares, which will be retained by the vendors for a minimum of 18 months and £2 million in cash satisfied by 1.6 million new ordinary shares, which have been placed for the vendors. Hazlewood has also acquired Crystallised Confection (Tipton) from Unilever for £500,000 in cash.

• NATIONWIDE LEISURE: No dividend (2.5p) for the year to October 31. Turnover £15.62 million (£25.2 million). Pretax profit £841,000 (£762,000).

• RAYCLIFFS (GREAT BRIDGE): Total dividend for 1986 halved to 1.25p. Sales £32.33 million (£45.04 million). Pretax loss £1.03 million (profit £136,000). Loss per share 30.11p (£6.2p).

• WILLIAM COLLINS: The company has sold its professional and technical list, Collins Professional Books, to Blackwell Scientific Publications for £1.8 million cash.

• RIVER PLATE & GENERAL INVESTMENT TRUST: Total dividend on deferred shares 9p (8.5p) for 1986. Net revenue £1.46 million (£1.36 million). Earnings per deferred share 9.24p (8.64p).

• ERSKINE HOUSE: The company has disposed of its interest in Sovereign Cleaners for £200,000. At March 31, 1986, Sovereign's net tangible assets were £98,172.

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HORIZONS

A guide to career choice

Creatures large and small

The lovable side of animals is enough to attract thousands of candidates for veterinary and zoo work, but as Sally Watts points out, animals can kick, bite and scratch. A second article will appear on Thursday.



An experienced keeper may qualify as a senior keeper after taking the Zoo's internal examinations. A good way for people over 16 to discover if they are suited to the work — and vice versa — is to try for a temporary seasonal job at a zoo, usually between Easter and September.

Zoos, of course, draw on the services of the veterinary surgeon: this is just one of the many possibilities open to a qualified vet, and a very popular career it is.

This work includes disease prevention and the care of farm animals, horses and household pets. Most new graduates first enter general practice to gain all-round experience, after which some take up postgraduate studies.

A useful booklet is *A Career as a Veterinary Surgeon*, which describes a vet's training, work and career opportunities, and costs £2 from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. There are six university veterinary schools — at Bristol, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool and London — and the course generally takes five years.

After the Government, the largest employer of vets is the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals, with 160 working full time in its treatment centres, which care for the pets of poorer people often on state benefits. It also has about 170 veterinary nurses, trained or in training.

Here again the RCVS produces a £2 booklet, *Veterinary Nursing — A Guide to the Scheme*. Students must be at least 17, with four good O levels or CSEs at Grade 1, including English language and a science or maths subject. They must also be employed at a college — approved training centre, generally a veterinary practice. Training takes at least two years and there are two exams to pass. Details of study courses — block release, part-time or short-term residential — are available from the RCVS.

The PDSA has its own two-year nurse training programme for people over 18; vacancies are advertised in job centres or local newspapers. A correspondence course, also of two years, has just been started for students enrolled with the RCVS, and is run by the Canine Studies Institute.

This is a correspondence college offering courses to beginners and older people. The National Small Animal Care Certificate (formerly the National Kennelstaff Training Certificate) provides a good grounding for young people in various branches of kennel work, such as boarding, breeding, quarantine sanctuary or rescue, and for those working in a veterinary practice, perhaps as receptionists, or in a pet shop or grooming parlour.

It can be taken by pet shop assistants before the Pet Trade Industry Association's course in pet store management, or by people in a dog parlour before the City and Guilds grooming exams. For these, candidates need two years' experience.

Kennelwork can often be undertaken by mildly disabled people, including those who are slightly spastic or have impaired hearing.

Animals and an outdoor life are combined in the work of the RSPCA's 250 field officers or inspectors. You must be at least 22, fit, of good general education, with a clean driving licence. Selected applicants train for seven months, three of them in the field.

Agriculture and management of farm animals is another career for those who like an outdoor life. County agricultural colleges offer certificate and diploma courses, some of which specialize in livestock, such as fish farming and poultry husbandry.

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will find the work of a guide dog instructor rewarding — it involves teaching a blind person and his or her dog to work as a team. You should be between 20 and 24, with four O levels or CSE equivalent, one in English. Training takes three years.

Few careers attract school-leavers more than working with horses: the British Horse Society receives more than 12,000 inquiries a year. As the society says, this is a way of life, leaving little time for other interests, and enjoyment is part of the reward for the hard work.

The good news is that the industry employs large numbers in riding schools, stud work, racing and grooming. Get a good basic training, then consider your choice in the light of your ability and aptitude.

The British Racing School at Newmarket runs courses for people of 16 and 17 wanting to train as stable staff; boys must weigh under seven stone, girls under eight.

For further details, contact the British Horse Society, 100, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY. The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, 22, Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8EP. People's Dispensary for Sick Animals, 705A, North Street, Dorking, Surrey RH4 2LA. Canine Studies Institute, London Road, Lymington, Hampshire SO41 2AA. Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, 113, Uxbridge Road, London W5 5TD. RSPCA, Canine, Heathway, West Sussex PO12 1HG. Canine, Education and Training, Canine Centre, 100, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY. National Agricultural Centre, Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 2LJ. British Horse Society, 100, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY. Please enclose SAE.

EDUCATIONAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8



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Continued on page 26

01-05-1981

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tiane Handicap Chase at
completed the course safely
mpresses

double

BOULEVARD HARBORS: Hunt: 1, Irish Williams, 2, River Mist, 3, Vanching Pioneer, Rest, div 1; 1, Spartan Mariner, 2, Meadow Lad, 3, Cash Elden, Ladies: 1, Saraden, 2, Aqua Verde, 3, Les Cancer, Open: 1, Golden Link, 2, Quiver, Dicto-Boat finished first, disqualified, only 3.

1. **Unshaded Aft.** 1. **Flapion County.** 2. **Enchanted**
 3. **Black 3.** **Thermostat.** **Nick.** 1. **Black Beetle.** 2.
 3. **Baymiller.** 3. **Ben Kinnison.**
BLACKLESSY: **Hust.** 1. **Maribel Lady.** 2.
Winnmore. 3. **Gardeta.** **Audi Aft.** 1.
Wadsworth. **Lat.** 2. **Sharon Bitch.** 3. **True**
Joyce. **Ladies.** 1. **Sweet Diana.** 2.
Comedian. 3. **Flash Fred.** **Opac.** 1.
Edersong. 2. **Jimmy Lat.** 3. **Power**
Classic. **West.** 1. **Jupiter's Baby.** 2.
Pendino. 3. **Father Brady.** **Nide.** **dr t.** 1.
Kelly's Bridge. 2. **Just About.** 3. **Pendino.**
Nide. **dr t.** 1. **Indian.** 2. **York Imperial.** 3.
Eagle Bridge.

GENOF FARMERS: Hunt: 1, Mister Bosun. 2, Armour Star. 3, Lazarus. Open, div 1: 1, Air Sables. 2, Alice Woodark. 3, Crookman. Adj: 1, Fennely. 2, Lord Wainwright. 3, Jolly Misc. Ladies. Div 2: 1, Celtic Beauty. 2, Snatch Sound. 3, Gloria Boy. Males, div 1: 1, Coltside. 2, Spartan Arrow. 3, Gone With The Wind. Open, div 1: 1, Ramblin' Rose. 2, Grange Higgins. 3, No Sweet Root. 7, Adulator. 2, Arish Mel. 3, Nearly Heavy. Males, div 1: 1, Doute Magic. 2, Oak Lodge. Only two finished.

NORTH HEREFORDSHIRE: Hunt: 1, Go

1. Sleep. 2. Stase Run. 3. Coartic. Acc. div.
 1. Higham Hill. 2. The Next Night. 3.
 French Lieutenant. Open. div. 1. Mr
 Bumbos. 2. Koul Kanda. 3. Solcity.
 Judice. 1. Brown Peril. 2. Random Leg. 3.
 Sheburi Chewings. Rest. div. 1. Young
 Sugar Bush. 2. Quisno Hill. 3. Clifford.
 Open. div. 1. Star Gazetts. 2. Silverhos.
 1. Raylight. Rest. div. 1. Kate's Girl. 2.
 Bachelor Lad. 3. Lamorns Bay. Acc. div. 1.
 Ausland Jack. 2. Another Orbit. 3.
 Pembrotshires Lad. Mole. 1. Sans Drake.
 1. Mrs Ory. 3. Apollo Queen.

ORTH NORTH-POLE: Hunt: 1, Hor Jackie. 2, River. 3, Fieldawn Hill. Midn: div 1, pt 1. 1, Fresh Spice. 2, Border Kelly. 3, Little Semley. Midn: div 1, pt 2: 1, Captoen. 2, Kallins Park. 3, Fluctus. Midn: div R: 1, Idiots Beauty. 2, Procrus. 3, The Cobalt Unit. Open: 1, City Boy. 2, Starnick Lock. 1, Needwood Normal. Ladies: 1, Kula. 2, Martiusu. 3, Mussel Bend. PPOA: 1, Fort Hall. 2, Flot Artist. 3, Wise Gambia. Asg: 1, Truited. 2, Annacine. 3, Baldcase.

WASHINGTON: Hunt: 1, Mesclain. 2, Alodic Land. 3, Cherady. Asg: 1, Easy Way. 2, Arctic Menetek. 3, Ukaly Tale.

1. Trumpet, 2. Pay Zone, 3. Sunday School. **Open:** 1. Whiggle Gags, 2. Bless me All, 3. Preach, Ladies: 1. Unser, 2. Kroomley, 3. Klori. **Men, div 1:** 1. Twice Loved, 2. Fawdington Ben, 3. Mountain. **Men, div 1:** 1. Ingoby Star, 2. Saser Sam, 3. Royal Man.

WEST SHROPSHIRE DRAGHOUNDS:
Men: 1. Double Declutch, 2. Fiat Fiat, 3. Notable Robert. **Adj:** 1. Sherry, 2. Court Guest, 3. Alborak. **Open:** 1. Kimbry, 2. Zembora III, 3. The Mighty Boco. **Ladies:** 1. Penny Azara, 2. Royal Missile, 3. Raven Rose. **Men, div 1:** 1. Blackadder King, 2. Funny Madam, 3. Peace Rider.

Saturday's results

4.15 1, Happy Breed (8-1); 2, Xtra (10-1); 3, Spark Of Peace (10-1); 4, Royal Gull (20-1). Nightown Fontaine 7-2 fav. 77 ran. NR. Atkinson.

4.45 1, Firm Price (5-4 fav); 2, Too Often (1-1); 3, Lord Sun (75-1). 19 ran. NR. Old Nelson.

5.15 1, Potten Bee (11-4); 2, Bessacarr Boy (85-40 fav); 3, Pymer King (11-4). 11 ran.

2.0 1, Albert Hall (Evens bay; Mand-
fari's dept); 2, Grant Garden (89-1); 3,
Indubound Less (25-1); 16 ran.

2.30 1, Refilio (8-1); 2, Mr Grapetree (7-
1); 3, Pamela Heaney (7-2); Vulgus 5-2
lv. 11 ran. NR: Grand Celebration,
Jaredczak, Solent Express, Ruperts
daughter, L'Etrole du Patis.

3.0 1, Atsuhiko (4-4 fav); 2, Cabini (33-1);
Sandwalker (8-1). 2 ran.

7/25

Structors (8-11), J. French Lober (10-11), and
an-NP: New Haven, Uncle Harry.

[illegible]

... ..

Orrell open up the game

By Michael Stevenson

Orrell 16
Gloucester 10

That Orrell won their demanding John Player Special Cup quarter-final at Edge Hall Road against Gloucester by a goal, a try and two penalties to a try and two penalties brought acute pleasure to some of the most passionate devotees of the game. To the disinterested observer the method which brought victory was even more significant.

Orrell consistently tried to play a more expansive game; the problems came on the wings, where Anscough and Heath are uncomfortable, especially with regard to positional play and awareness of support. Both are more at home in midfield and played like it, though Anscough lacked beautifully and Heath scored a fine try.

Gloucester's collective superiority in their speed to the breakdown and general mobility was crucial. The Orrell play, by contrast, was slow, in the form of close inter-passing and rolling mauls; Gloucester thrived on an altogether faster tempo.

Gloucester had marginally the better of the first half with the slight breeze behind them. Hamlin chipped and probed and pressure brought points through two well-structured plays by Marmont to one by Gary Williams. One thundering run by Cusack should have led to a try but he was penalized near the line and, significantly it turned out, the four players to arrive at the next line out were all Orrell men.

Would they flag in the second half? The answer was soon apparent as the opposite occurred. Quality ball was won by the Orrell pack after a long rolling maul and Peter Williams worked two dummy scissors before throwing a long pass to Taberner. He chipped precisely to the right corner and Heath just got the touch.

Not long after Carleton broke thrillingly; when checked Orrell won fast ball and Anscough's in-pass made a try for Kimmings, whose euphoria knew no bounds. Gary Williams converted and the Orrell pack, apparently to put Orrell out of reach.

Back came Gloucester. Marmont kicked ahead. Bennett made a try for Dunn and some superb handling, with the talented Mogg prominent, was timed by desperation and panic and conversion that would have carried Gloucester into the semi-final was only prevented by brave Orrell defence.

SCORERS: Orrell: Tries: Heath, Marmont, Carleton, Kimmings, Bennett, Dunn. Conversions: G. Williams. Penalties: Marmont. Gloucester: Tries: Williams. Conversions: G. Williams. Penalties: Marmont. Gloucester: Tries: Williams. Conversions: G. Williams. Penalties: Marmont.

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Bath slip home and dry on the gracious hand of fortune

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

Bath 12
Moseley 3

If Bath win the John Player Special Cup for a record fourth successive year they may look back at this quarter-final at the Recreation Ground on Saturday as the hardest hurdle they had to overcome. If Moseley had possessed a goal-kicker of any stature they might have done so, but not Bath established such an utterly secure platform at the lineout.

Bath won by a goal, a penalty goal and a dropped goal to a penalty, equalising Leicester's record of 18 successive wins in the cup. But their vision of the game, necessarily stilted by the heavy pitch, was restricted even further by the staunch performance of the Moseley forwards which brought the best — and at times the worst — out of the cup holders.

Not until an hour had passed were Bath able to begin a forward drive of any consequence. Sole and Robinson led directly to the goal which gave them back the advantage. It was at that stage that Moseley's spirit began to wane because, instead of going into the final quarter defending the lead their territorial advantage should have earned them, they had to claw their way back against a side whose muscular

authority and durability are well known. No one genuinely expected a flowing match but, equally, there was room for Bath to do more than bring the ball back to the maul where Moseley, for a long time, were their equals. And though there is a place in the game for assertive, aggressive rugby — indeed, the modern international game demands it — Dawe would be well advised to channel his efforts more constructively.

The French marked him down after the international the previous weekend and, if Saturday's match had had two qualified referees on the line able to intervene for foul play, he might not have lasted the course; nor, indeed, might Palmer, who uncharacteristically punched Metcalfe after the Moseley captain, anticipated a pack which never came, packed Palmer without the ball.

Bath's uncapped players made as great a contribution as any to their cause: Morrison and Egerton improved in stature as the game wore on, aided and abetted by Sole, the Scottish prop, whose last season with the club this year He intends to move to Scotland during the summer and join Edinburgh Academicals, motivated as much as anything by the need to avoid constant journeys North to international training weekends.

Moseley posted their intentions with particular clarity at the beginning of each half at a set scrum early on they drove back the Bath pack some 10 metres and won a penalty for offside which Metcalfe could not kick. Immediately after the interval, with the score at 3-3, Robson began a rolling maul down the right which earned another penalty and Metcalfe, his left foot always insecure on the slippery surface, missed it.

Poor Metcalfe. He had six penalty attempts and scored with only one. He might well have changed his arm with a couple more from the 40-metre mark rather than kicking for ground because he was as likely to score as not.

It did not matter. Hare landed another penalty five minutes into the second half and then created the second try with an exquisite chip down the right touchline for Evans to follow up

to show for their efforts. Hare replying with one for the hosts. Ten minutes later Leicester finally took the lead with the first of their two tries as Charles Curran led from the back of the scrum and drove over from five metres out. Hare missed the conversion.

By the time the sides turned around at half-time Leicester's backs had thrown caution to the wind. They had got the measure of their opposite numbers and knew they could take risks, some of them ludicrous. Twice Curran passed the ball through his legs like an American footballer returning the ball to his quarterback, the difference being that the Leicester stand-off had no idea where it was going.

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One man with a raw appetite for the game: Dawe savouring a melon-sized slice of the action (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

drove back the Bath pack some 10 metres and won a penalty for offside which Metcalfe could not kick. Immediately after the interval, with the score at 3-3, Robson began a rolling maul down the right which earned another penalty and Metcalfe, his left foot always insecure on the slippery surface, missed it.

Poor Metcalfe. He had six penalty attempts and scored with only one. He might well have changed his arm with a couple more from the 40-metre mark rather than kicking for ground because he was as likely to score as not.

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It is frustrating that Moseley, with a particularly good young front row, will not be able to prove it. But the sides that win are those who take opportunity by the hand, as Bath did on their one sustained first-half visit to the

pushover. Egerton controlled the ball and a Moseley foot kicked it out of the scrum, giving Bath a penalty try and Barnes a simple conversion. The better side went through to today's semi-final draw but not without a gasp of relief.

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Hill kicked his side back to the same corner, where Sole looked to have crossed from a lineout. It did not matter; from the scrum Bath went for

Paul Thomas scored Coventry's try from a rolling maul; Andrew and Steve Thomas kicked penalties; and just before half-time Robson scored Wasp's first try, which might never have happened if Davies had not picked up a pass that was more like a low chance to the slips.

Fellow scored just after half-time from a movement begun by Davies, who was then bounded off a Coventry player. So to those last 10 minutes.

They were stronger in the scrums but not in the lineouts, where Kidner and Gulliver were able to upend more than the opposition. The best of Coventry was seen in the first half

when they led 7-3 until a moment before the interval, with Steve Thomas booting up-and-downs from the base of the scrum, Rowan showing promise and Davies looking nervous.

But in the second half it soon became clear that Coventry were spent. They had to replace Paul Thomas, who injured a shoulder, and Steve Thomas, who tore a hamstring. Wasps were still slow to assert themselves but ultimately managed it.

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CHOICE

Mike Ports gets shots which other cameramen only dream of, partly, one suspects, because of the lack of organized catering facilities in such remote parts. His photography is quite sharp and very impressive. We learn all we need to know (and more) about the hummingbird. What is not revealed is how to photograph a hummingbird from inside a flower, which Ports apparently does.

• The radio choice is Welsh Drama (Radio 4, 8.15pm), a dramatization of *On the Black Hill* by Bruce Chatwin. This novel of life on a bleak border hill farm is one of the finest of recent years. Years, however, that Welsh could never fully capture the taciturnity that is at the heart of the original.

BBC1

BBC 2

BBC 2

ITV/LONDON

CHANNEL 4

VARIATIONS

Cancer Relief Macmillan fund,
9 Britten Street,
London SW3 3TY.
phone: 01-351 7811.

Every year, thousands of families have their happiness and unity shattered by the news that one of them has cancer.

For many of them, any cure will come too late.

It can't help them to live with cancer. Or help to put the pieces of their lives back together again.

Bur Cancer Relief can.

Our Macmillan nurses are trained to care for both the physical and mental pain this ruthless disease causes.

By working hand in hand with the local GP and district nurse, a Macmillan nurse's skill allows patients to remain at home rather than in an impersonal hospital ward.

She can help the family to cope with the situation.

And show them how to take part in caring for their relative.

All in all, she can help life to go on as normally and with as much dignity as this cruel disease will allow.

But it's your generosity that buys this care. That helps to make a life for those who live with cancer.

Please send your contributions to:

Major H C. L. Garnett CBE,
Room TT2,
Cancer Relief Macmillan fund,
15/19 Britten Street,
London SW3 3TY.
Telephone: 01-351 7811.

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1:1053kHz/285m;1089kHz/275m; Radio 2: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m; Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m;VHF-90-92.5; Radio 4: 200kHz/1500m; VHF-92-95; LBC:1152kHz/261m; VHF 97.3; Capital: 1548kHz/194m; VHF95.8; BBC Radio London:

Cancer Relief

NEWS SUMMARY

Principal hands over £4.5m college debts

Dr Cecil Bevan, principal of University College, Cardiff, yesterday handed over financial control of the college to allow an examination of debts totalling £4.5 million.

Dr Bevan, aged 66, agreed to stand aside yesterday. Mr Bob Harris, the college bursar, resigned.

Mr Andrew Hopper, Dr Bevan's solicitor, said the agreement to delegate responsibility for college finances, "has been made to protect the jobs of 3,000 employees of the college, which appear to have been put at risk".

Mr Michael Shattock, registrar of Warwick University, was called in after the Department of Education and Science said the college's grant would be withheld until action was taken to put its finances in order.

The college senate yesterday passed a vote of no confidence in the principal.

Prince's 4 contest TV quest Oxford

The Prince of Wales, out riding with the Meynell Hunt in Derbyshire on Saturday, was so keen to see his sister make her debut as a jump jockey that he sent his detective to the nearest public house to ask if he could watch Princess Anne on television.

Mr Frank Hudson, licensee of the Oxford Inn at Longford, admitted yesterday that he had been asked if a small party could come inside and watch his television.

Princess Anne came last in the race.

Nanny appointed, page 3

Reith music lectures

The composer, Alexander Goehr, who is professor of music at Cambridge University and a fellow of Trinity Hall, will deliver the 1987 Reith Lectures. His six half-hour talks, to be broadcast weekly starting in November, will be the first Reith lectures to be devoted to music.

Professor Goehr was born in Berlin and came to England as a child. He is a former music producer for the BBC and has taught in America, at the New England Conservatory of Music and Yale University, as well as at Southampton and Leeds universities. He has written orchestral, chamber and choral music, and his most recent works are his second opera, *Behold the Sun*, and *Symphony with Chaconne*, which was given its first performance in January.

Sylvester Who?

The new Dr Who is to be Sylvester McCoy, aged 43. He takes over from Colin Baker, becoming the seventh actor to play the television Time Lord.

Mr McCoy will team up with Bonnie Langford, as his assistant, Melanie, when the BBC's long-running, children's series returns in the autumn.

He recently finished starring at the National Theatre and has played Shakespearean roles.

Dr Who has a regular British audience of more than seven million.

Karajan court fight

A Sunderland woman who was adopted at birth said yesterday that she had begun a paternity suit in Austria to try to prove she is the daughter of Herbert von Karajan, artistic director of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra.

Mrs Uta Gisela De Doncker, aged 43, of Corby Cote, Sunderland, said that she has conclusive evidence that Herr von Karajan, an Austrian, is her natural father.

"I was given away for adoption immediately after my birth and have been searching for my real parents for years. I discovered Herbert von Karajan is my father after tracing my mother in Berlin", she said. She had been forced to start a paternity case, she said, because of Herr von Karajan's failure to confirm he is her father.

Teaching the art of survival

A new international training programme to help farmers in Third World countries to achieve self-sufficiency was launched in London yesterday by Sir Henry Plumb, President of the European Parliament and former President of the National Farmers' Union.

The first two target countries will be Uganda, where potentially productive farmland has been ravaged by years of civil war, and Ethiopia, also war-torn and the victim of the recent catastrophic famine.

Mr Basil Fox, director general of the programme, said yesterday that the combination of stagnating agricultural production and increasing population in Third World countries would inevitably lead to famines as bad as, and worse than, those of recent times.

The object was to provide a link between higher level education and research and peasant farmers who at present were completely untrained to make use of technical advances. "The need is for more technicians rather than technologists", he said.

Borough's rates may rise 80%

Rates in the London borough of Ealing, where Mr Neil Kinnock the Labour leader lives, could rise by 80 per cent or more in the coming year.

The council meets later this week to fix the rate, and already the business community has protested about the possible increase.

A group of businessmen met council leaders and said they were stunned by reports of a possible 60-80 per cent increase in the business rate for 1987-88. Mr Ron Martin, their spokesman, told the council that "any substantial increase would have severe consequences for future business expansion and employment opportunities in the area".

The council, one of three London boroughs to return to Labour control in last May's local government elections, has a range of options to consider at its meeting, but it is believed the increases could be nearly 90 per cent for business ratepayers and more than 90 per cent for householders.

The council pointed out yesterday that in the past eight years the borough had lost more than £100 million in Government rate support grant, and that the council was determined to maintain its services.

In a statement to the council, the business representatives said that if the 80 per cent increase were true, "some of us could be faced with a bill for an extra £250,000, one with a bill for an extra £800,000".

They said an increase of such a level could cause a loss of jobs. One employer said his firm employed 100 in the borough. "At the moment our rates bill per employee is £1,100. With an 80 per cent increase that becomes £2,000 per employee."

Previously, the so-called "golden hello" has been offered only by private businesses, particularly in financial services and the high technology industries.

The London borough of Bromley voted in January to approve special incentives which include relocation expenses of up to £6,000, a

property equity share of up to £50,000 or half the value of the house, and two-thirds of the cost of leased cars up to local authorities through valuable perks and cash inducements.

The chief personnel officer, Mr Tim Butterfield, said: "An advertisement for a management auditor and a group accountant brought 24 inquiries and six firm applications."

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Baking group plans £28m plant for Wales 800 new jobs in work blackspot

By Ronald Faux, Employment Affairs Correspondent

More than 1,000 new jobs for Wales and the creation of factory space for 7,500 more were announced yesterday. The Cardiff-based Avana baking group plans to open a £28 million manufacturing complex at Merthyr Tydfil which will provide 800 jobs in one of Wales' worst unemployment blackspots, where one in five is out of work.

The company has taken over the 400,000sq-ft Dragonparc complex, the former Hoover factory which has

been empty for 14 years because of recession in the washing machine industry. The deal will allow Hoover to locate its new headquarters in an office block on the site creating more than 200 jobs. The move from its present headquarters in west London will be completed by June.

Avana is fighting off a £262 million bid by Rank Hovis McDougall and the company believes the profit potential from such a big expansion will help defend it from a take-over.

The project was announced by Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales.

Avana will develop production of cakes, savouries and cereals at the new site. It has about 2,000 workers in South Wales factories and bakeries and is regarded as one of the biggest success stories of Welsh industry. The new project could attract up to £7.7 million in government grants which were applied for ahead of the RHM take-over bid.

The Welsh Office said yesterday that both companies were aware that the grants were discretionary and would not automatically be available to any new company.

Workers at Avana are resist-

ing the bid to absorb their company into RHM because they fear it would mean redundancies.

Hoover said yesterday that because of the urgency and the need for more jobs in Wales it had decided to relinquish the Dragonparc site to allow the plan to go ahead.

Mr Edwards told the House of Commons yesterday: "It is all very good news and indicates the scale of the economic expansion now under way in Wales". He was commenting on the Avana development and expansion plans by three other companies in Wales.

● Sony at Bridgend: £30 million creating 332 new jobs, bringing workforce to 1,600.

● CP Pharmaceuticals of Clwyd: £4 million creating 100 new jobs.

● Motil Plastics: 130 new jobs at Aberbargoed, Mid Glamorgan.

The new property development plans by the Welsh Development Agency, which Mr Edwards approved yesterday, will provide three million square feet of industrial floorspace and room for up to 7,500 jobs. The budget for the projects is likely to total £93 million by 1990.

Parliament, page 4

Fifth Man was in MI5, book claims

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

A former deputy director-general of MI5, who insisted before his death two years ago that he had never been a Soviet spy, has been named as the Fifth Man in new revelations about Russian penetration of Britain's counter-espionage service in the 1950s and 1960s.

However the naming of Mr Graham Mitchell, who was investigated as a possible spy and placed under surveillance, is unlikely to end the controversy over the identity of the high-ranking mole in MI5 who was linked to the known traitors, Guy Burgess, Donald Maclean, Kim Philby and Anthony Blunt.

The other main candidate, Sir Roger Hollis, the director-general of MI5 from 1956 to 1963, was also investigated but was officially cleared through lack of evidence.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher said in the Commons in 1981 that each of the leads pointing to Sir Roger "could also be taken as pointing to Philby or Blunt".

The allegations against Mr Mitchell, who died in November 1984 at the age of 79, appear in a new book, *Molehunt*, by Nigel West, whose real name is Rupert Allason, Conservative parliamentary candidate for Torbay. The book is to be published by Weidenfeld & Nicholson later this month.

Mr West's claim that Sir Roger was innocent contradicts the allegations of Mr Peter Wright, the former MI5 officer, whose book, *Spycatcher*, is the subject of government legal action in Australia.

Judgement by Mr Justice Powell on whether the book can be published in Australia is expected shortly.

Last night, Mr Mitchell's son, Charles, totally rejected the new allegations against his father, who was deputy director-general of MI5 from 1956-63.

He said: "My father was still alive when it was originally disclosed in the early 1980s that he had come under unjustified suspicion of having been a spy for the Soviet Union, that he had been investigated and had subsequently been cleared."

Mr Chapman Pincher, who wrote two books alleging that the Fifth Man was Sir Roger Hollis, also dismissed the new claims.

He said that Mr Mitchell could not have come from the same spy ring as Burgess and Maclean, because they were all together at Cambridge, whereas the former deputy director-general of MI5 went to Oxford, "a long time before".

Sir Roger's widow said that she had not read the new book about Mr Mitchell and could make no comment.

However it is known that the Hollis family were contacted by Mr West during his research.

Mr Mitchell, who was educated at Winchester and Magdalen College, Oxford, joined MI5 in 1939.

In the late 1940s and 1950s, he played a leading part in the construction of anti-penetration devices, designed to keep the KGB out of Whitehall.

There were fears yesterday that the news war could escalate. Mr Roy Roostan, London district secretary of the National Federation of Retail Newsagents, said: "I'm

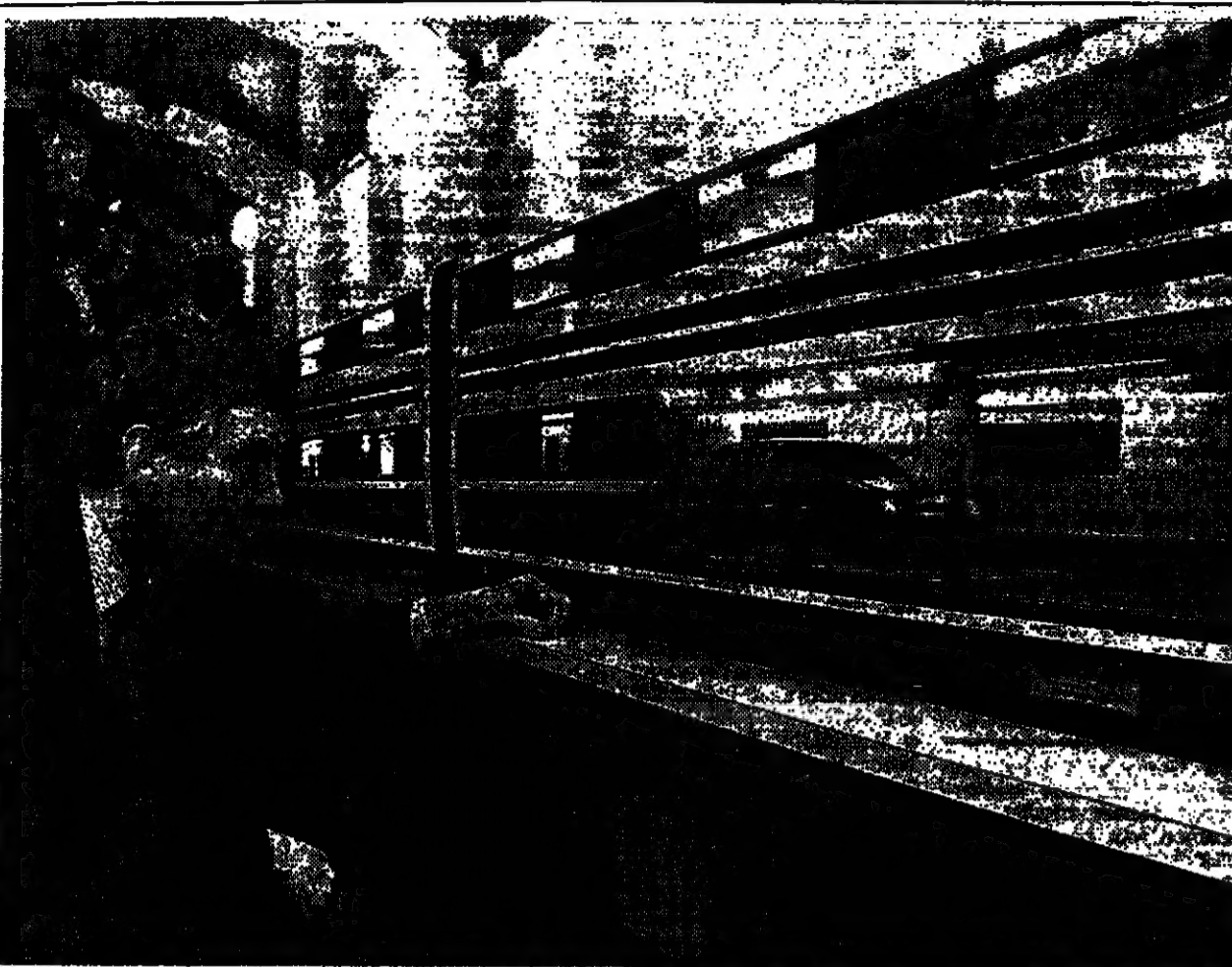
worried for our members".

He said that Mr Maxwell's price cutting was providing newsagents with a bonus, because normally they keep only 28 per cent of the cover price.

The worrying factor is that somebody is going to be foolish enough to introduce a free newspaper. Our members do not want that", he said.

As reports dribbled in from last week's combat, it appeared that the *London Daily News* had failed to meet many of its objectives. Logistical problems were blamed.

But the paper said that the problems were being solved and that the longer term outlook was bright because of better-than-expected sales of classified advertising.



Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Transport, at the Channel tunnel train-exhibition (Photograph: Chris Harris).

Channel tunnel

Shuttle trains on a tour of Britain

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

Passengers in 750-metre long trains are likely to be travelling 40 metres below the bed of the Channel to France.

Those who are with their cars on the channel tunnel shuttle will make the 35 minute journey at 100mph from Folkestone to the French terminal near Calais in double-deck carriages, each 25 metres long, four metres wide and two metres high.

The carriages will be totally enclosed and passengers will be able to leave their cars to walk about or use refreshment and other facilities. No booking will be necessary and at peak times the shuttles will leave every 15 minutes.

Yesterday an exhibition train carrying models of the planned tunnel rolling stock left Paddington station in London on a three-week tour to 14 cities in Britain. A spokesman for Eurotunnel, the company which is sponsoring the Channel project, said the aim was to make as many

people as possible aware of its advantages.

It is hoped that customs officers will travel on the trains while they are travelling to destinations outside the South-east in order to carry out their checks. This would help ensure that areas away from the South-east gain the greatest advantage from the tunnel. The customs authorities have been resisting the innovation but Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Transport, yesterday emphasised the importance of the whole of Britain being able to benefit when the tunnel comes into operation in 1993.

Lord Amthill, chairman of the House of Lords Channel tunnel select committee, accused the Government yesterday of reneging on a promise to allow plenty of time for petitions objecting to the £4.7 billion project (Sheila Cune writes).

As a result of his earlier intervention the Department of Transport placed advertisements in five national newspapers only five days before the deadline closed for petitions last month.

Lord Amthill, an independent peer, started yesterday's hearings by reading out the commitment originally given by the Government stating that notices and advertisements would warn petitioners when to put in objections to the select committees of the Commons and the Lords.

Mr Michael Fitzgerald, QC, for the department, apologised. He said those affected by the project would have been following the Bill's progress through Parliament and so would know the deadline.

The quasi-judicial committee is expected to sit until late May hearing the 1,459 petitions.

Eurotunnel, the troubled Anglo-French consortium behind the project, is counting on the Bill receiving Royal Assent by the summer recess. It can then try to get the third tranche of equity of £750 million to build the link.

Mr Fitzgerald listed the issues which the Government will challenge as not being relevant to the committee hearing. They included: the procedures of Parliament and the question of a public inquiry; the effect of the tunnel on Britain, its industry, employment and regional policy; rail; drugs smuggling; terrorism and threat of sabotage; carriage of nuclear waste; Britain's island status; defence issues; impact on public spending and powers of the French police in the UK.

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Heroin 'paid for Ulster guns'

By Stewart Tessler, Crime Reporter

An Ulster "loyalist" based in London used profits from heroin dealing to finance arms supplies for Protestant extremists in Northern Ireland. It was claimed at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

James Norwood, aged 37, allegedly told police after his arrest last April that the guns were intended for an active service unit in Northern Ireland, and he was only a small link in a large network of persons supplying firearms for the cause.

The court was told that police followed two men, David Percy and William McLeish, both alleged Ulster loyalists from Glasgow, to Mr Norwood's home. They saw Percy leave with a heavy holdall and later found it contained a self-loading rifle, a pump action sawn-off shotgun, a Smith and Wesson Magnum .357 revolver and a second handgun.

A search of Mr Norwood's home disco yielded 298 grams of heroin, worth £20,000 and a powder used for cutting or reducing, the purity of the drug for sale.

Yesterday Mr Norwood, a painter from Hackney, east London, pleaded not guilty to five charges involving possession of firearms and ammunition and two charges involving heroin.

Mr David Page, for the prosecution, told the court the crown alleged that Mr Norwood, an Ulster loyalist, supplied guns and ammunition to Percy who was to take them to Scotland and from there to Northern Ireland.

Mr Page said Percy had earlier yesterday pleaded guilty to possession of guns and ammunition with intent to endanger life.

The crown had accepted Percy's plea of not guilty to a charge of possessing guns and ammunition with intent to endanger life.

The case continues today.

'Second UDR man in raid'

By Richard Ford

A second member of the Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR) was involved in a "loyalist" paramilitary raid at a residential base in which 170 weapons were stolen, it was alleged yesterday.

The gang which carried out the raid, organized by the paramilitary Ulster Defence Association (UDA), was allegedly smuggled into the barracks in the boot of a vehicle driven by a lance corporal in the regiment, the High Court in Belfast was told.

Four armed, masked men carried out the raid at Coleraine UDR barracks on February 22, stealing 140 rifles, pistols, ammunition and military equipment. The haul was recovered three hours later when a UDR vehicle was intercepted by the RUC on the M2 near Belfast.

Details of the robbery were disclosed during bail applications by Lance Corporal Keith McClelland, aged 23, and Lance Corporal Samuel Ferris, aged 21, both of Coleraine. Mr McClelland, who is charged with conspiring to rob UDR members, was released on £1,600 bail. Mr Ferris, who is charged with robbing members of the regiment, was refused bail.

Counsel for the Crown said the car used to smuggle the men was allegedly driven by Mr Ferris, who joined the UDA because of his opposition to the Anglo-Irish agreement.

Ulster Clubs' proposal to collect taxes

The Ulster Clubs movement unveiled proposals yesterday to set up an alternative to the Northern Ireland Office, which would collect taxes, rates and other payments due to the authorities.

The plan involves the establishment of a committee comprising representatives of constitutional Unionist parties sitting alongside "loyalist" paramilitaries, which would co-ordinate resistance and protest against the Anglo-Irish agreement.

Mr Alan Wright, chairman of the clubs, denied that the proposal was a step towards setting up a provisional government. It was their intention that all government revenue should be withheld as a protest against the agreement.

Copies of their proposals have been sent to the leaders of the Official Unionist and Democratic Unionist parties, who have promised to reply after a detailed examination.

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said the proposals did not fit any Unionist approach as understood by most people in the province.

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